

Thursday May 21 1998

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INTERNATIONAL

# The Guardian

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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**Remember '88?**  
**How acid house became instant history**

G2 with European weather



The section that serves you right

**Consumer**

Digital TV: take your pick

G2 pages 10-11

OnLine

**Money for old chips**

G2 pages 12-13

## Storm engulfs freed nurses

Kamal Ahmed, Rory Carroll and Ian Black

**T**HE RELEASE of two British nurses was threatened to descend into a diplomatic row last night after a frenzied newspaper bidding war for their stories and the release of extracts of shocking diaries they kept in prison in Saudi Arabia.

The women, whose convictions for murdering Yvonne Gilford still stand, have already made £160,000 after signing deals with the Mirror and Express newspapers. The Mirror is understood to have paid more than £100,000 for exclusive rights to McLauchlan's story, while the Express has paid £60,000 in a deal with Parry.

The Press Complaints Commission has launched an inquiry into the deals after a complaint that they breached its rules on payments to convicted criminals. "Criminals are not supposed to profit from their crimes," said George Galloway, the Labour MP who made the complaint.

Writing about a Major Hammed, the head of the Saudi investigation, McLauchlan said: "[He] keeps pulling my hair. I'm positive they are going to rape me. Hammed tells me: 'Do you start writing or does the lieutenant take his trousers off?' Parry, who was questioned in a separate room, said she was also frightened that she was going to be raped. "They

were rubbing my thighs, I thought I would be raped by them all," she wrote. "I was so frightened, then the hitting started. Kept on being struck across the throat, my face was slapped, was told that if I didn't start writing it would be worse."

The Mirror and the Express defended their decisions to offer McLauchlan and Parry money, saying it was in the public interest that their stories should be heard. "We have bought the rights to Lucille McLauchlan's story because we believe she has been the victim of a gross

miscarriage of justice," the Mirror's editor, Piers Morgan, said. "Her story is a sensational account of how a young woman was framed for a crime she did not commit, beaten into a false confession and finally sentenced to a public flogging and years in jail."

Rosie Boycott, the editor of the Express, said it had taken the decision to pay Parry to "enable the public to know the truth behind her experience in Saudi Arabia". Max Clifford, the publicity agent who has been advising the McLauchlan family, said: "If you believe she [McLauch-

**Full house for Sinatra as he faces final curtain**

Martin Kettle in Los Angeles

**F**RANK Sinatra took his final curtain last night when he was buried next to his parents in a bronze-lined vault in the California desert following a Beverly Hills funeral attended by the cream of Hollywood.

Earlier, 750 invitation-only guests provided Sinatra with his final full house as they crowded into the Holy Cross Shepherd Catholic Church in Beverly Hills for a mass celebrated over the singer's open coffin by Cardinal Roger Mahony, the Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles.

In accordance with the singer's wishes, the funeral was kept as simple and as private as was practicable, given Sinatra's huge fame. Television and the press were excluded from the service and were kept behind barriers hundreds of yards away from the church.

Inside the gardenia and ivy-decked church, Sinatra's three children — Nancy, Frank Jr and Tina — each gave short addresses, and close friends Jerry Vale and Tom Dreesen read from the Bible. The singer Tony Bennett and film actor Robert Wagner delivered eulogies.

The desire for privacy did little to conceal a glittering turnout from the ageing Hollywood generation of which Sinatra had been the unchallenged principal. His honorary pall-bearers, some of them too frail now to carry much more than a walking stick, included Bennett, band leader Quincy Jones, and veteran actors Kirk Douglas and Ernest Borgnine.



Felice Montano, a fan of Frank Sinatra, with a card distributed at yesterday's funeral service. PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN RAMSAY

*Francis Albert Sinatra*  
Born: December 12, 1915  
Died: May 14, 1998  
Buried: Holy Cross Catholic Church, Beverly Hills, California

### The mourners

Barbara Sinatra (widow)  
Frank Jr  
Nancy, Tina (daughters)  
Mia Farrow (ex-wife)  
Joey Bishop  
Gregory Peck  
Shirley MacLaine  
Robert Wagner  
Tony Bennett  
Bob Dylan  
Johnny Carson

Don Rickles  
Kirk Douglas  
Jerry Lewis  
Steve Lawrence  
Elyse Gornik  
Frankie Valli  
Norm Crosby  
Ernest Borgnine  
Lisa Minnelli  
Tom Selleck  
Quincy Jones

dozens of white gardenias, was transported there by undertakers in readiness for yesterday's funeral mass. A three-piece band of musicians who had played with Sinatra over the years, performed a medley of his classics, including Night and Day, Young at Heart and the inevitable My Way.

After the funeral, Sinatra's coffin, accompanied by his widow Barbara and his children, was taken by private jet for an even more private interment ceremony at the California desert resort of Cathedral City, near Palm Springs. The coffin was decked in the Stars and Stripes and was carried by a military guard of

honour, to which Sinatra was entitled as a recipient of the Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Medal of Honour.

Interest in the singer's will continues unabated, with reports yesterday that his widow Barbara will inherit \$2 million and \$150 million to charities specialising in help for abused children.

## DPP bows out after Whitehall pressure

Clare Dyer and Anne Perkins

**D**AME Barbara Mills last night bowed to mounting pressure and announced that she is stepping down early as Director of Public Prosecutions in advance of a damning report into her command of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Dame Barbara, aged 57, has been fighting for months to keep her job despite two unpublished reports which are thought to have made her position untenable.

But after she came under strong pressure from the Attorney General, John Morris, she agreed to go to clear the way for a radical reorganisation of the CPS.

Her six-year stint as head of the service has been dogged by controversy. Staff surveys revealed rock-bottom morale, with lawyers complaining that tides of paperwork stopped them working on cases efficiently.

A report by the retired Court of Appeal judge Sir Iain Glidewell, which has been delivered to ministers, heralds an overhaul of the CPS. The report is expected to be published immediately after MPs return from the Whitsun break next month.

Dame Barbara, whose contract expires in April 1999, insisted last night that the decision to go was her own. She said she had suggested that her successor should be in post early to oversee the reorganisation of the CPS into 42 areas coinciding with police force boundaries. Any suggestion she was forced out was "just unkind rumour", she told Channel Four News.

But Whitehall sources said political pressure had been put on Dame Barbara to go. Mr Morris is expected to make a statement to MPs outlining far-reaching changes to the service when the report is published. One source said: "If she hadn't gone, the first question would have been: 'Why don't you sack her?'"



Illustration by Austin

Problems of resourcing for this cash-limited service. The Glidewell inquiry was commissioned by Labour against the background of a falling number of prosecutions. Dame Barbara argued that the CPS could only prosecute cases that were brought to it by police.

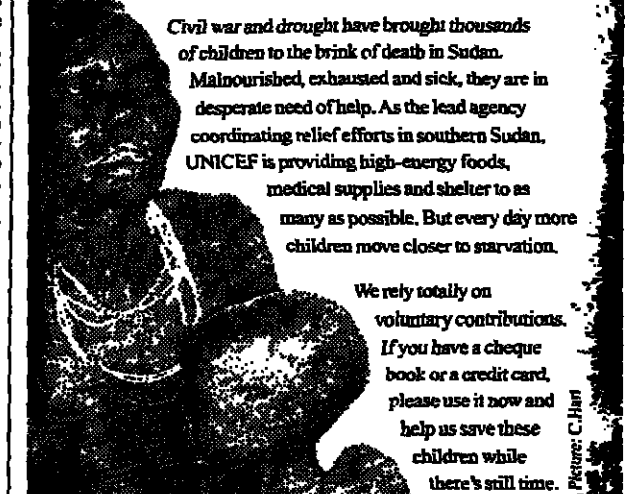
Sir Iain is expected to criticise the CPS as "very centralist", too isolated from police forces, and taking too many cases to court which are

thrown out. A second report, by retired circuit judge Gerald Butler, also unpublished, is thought to accuse the service of being too soft on rogue policemen who injure or kill suspects. Judge Butler was asked to look into CPS decision-making on prosecuting police last July after two cases of deaths in custody, in which Dame Barbara admitted the process was flawed, and a third in which the High Court said a CPS decision not to prosecute a suspect was one no reasonable prosecutor could have made.

After pressure from Mr Morris and the Solicitor General, Lord Falconer, Dame Barbara agreed to restrictions on her right to take decisions on prosecutions over assaults by police pending the outcome of the Butler inquiry.

## CHILDREN IN SUDAN ARE DYING

She's exhausted and starving, but she's walked all day to bring her grandchild to a relief centre. She may be too late.



Civil war and drought have brought thousands of children to the brink of death in Sudan.

Malnourished, exhausted and sick, they are in desperate need of help. As the lead agency coordinating relief efforts in southern Sudan, UNICEF is providing high-energy foods, medical supplies and shelter to as many as possible. But every day more children move closer to starvation.

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Please post this coupon, with your gift to: UNICEF, Room G144, FREEPOST, Chelmsford CM2 8BR. THANK YOU.

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## Sketch

## Early pledges get the bird



Simon Hoggart

**M**R R. SMITHSON writes from Downham Road, London E8, to complain about the way I seem to think that William Hague always wins his weekly exchanges with Tony Blair at Prime Minister's Question Time.

Mr Smithson says that he is a lifelong Tory, but finds himself "completely happy with Mr Blair." The country, he believes, is being governed as well as it ever has been. "I am convinced that he will keep his promises and life will be vastly improved... he is the most persuasive, plausible, completely believable PM in history. And in no time at all he has foreign politicians eating out of his hand."

At this point I began to get a little suspicious. I know that Alastair Campbell has recently written under the names of the Prime Minister of Japan and the President of Sierra Leone. But Mr R. Smithson of E8 is new.

On checking, I discover that there is no R. Smithson in the phone book and no Downham Road in E8. There is, however, a Downham Road not far away, in Islington. My case, such as it is, rests.

I fear that once again, *pace* Mr Smithson, the Tory leader defeated Mr Blair soundly in argument yesterday. It wasn't very difficult. Mr Blair is tired; he is doing too much. All heads of government confuse action with achievement. He should spend more time in Downing Street, thinking. Or just napping.

Mr Hague asked him about hospital waiting lists. Mr Blair admitted that they were indeed rising, but he had pledged to reduce them "and reduce them we will."

Mr Hague pointed out that, whereas their reduction had been one of Labour's "early pledges", listed on a wallet-sized card for the election, the number of people waiting for

treatment had actually risen by 130,000.

The Prime Minister replied that the Government was putting an extra £2 billion into the NHS, and would do more when prudence permitted. (I see her as one of those women who advertise in phone boxes. Prudence. Strict Financial Discipline Enforced.)

Mr Hague pointed out that he had made a similar "early pledge" about class sizes, which were also increasing. "You promised, as an early pledge, low interest rates and low inflation, and it's now at a six-year high."

"Don't you wish you had given a pledge to bring chaos to the Foreign Office, and then at least one minister would have delivered! Don't you understand that when you call out them 'early' pledges, people thought you meant early in the next century."

The gist of Mr Blair's reply was that all these unpleasant phenomena — rising inflation, class sizes and waiting lists — had been around for a long time under the Conservatives, and there wasn't very much that he could do about it in the short term.

But in which case, why did they promise that they would? My objection to this lot isn't that they aren't miracle workers, but that in order to get elected, they claimed that they could be.

The unspoken part of Mr Blair's replies always seems to be: "Surely, you don't confuse what we said we'd do with what we can do? What kind of naïf are you?"

Soon afterwards, a backbencher, Eric Martlew of Carlisle, asked the Prime Minister if he didn't think that, after the people of Britain had supported Ulster for 30 years (I direct, he is doing too much. All heads of government confuse action with achievement. He should spend more time in Downing Street, thinking. Or just napping.)

Mr Blair replied amiably enough that even if he did say No, the UK Government would "be ready to take the matter forward". But Labour's backbench questions are rather like dreams these days — they express what the Government's subconscious is really thinking. Dr Freud tells me that Mr Martlew's question really means: "It'll be time at last to ditch the whingeing bastards."

## Review

## Empty monsters without magic

Andrew Clements

## Monsters of Grace

Barbican Theatre

**T**WENTY-TWO years ago Philip Glass and Robert Wilson collaborated on a stage work, and contemporary opera was never the same again. Einstein on the Beach combined Glass's music, then in its most avant-garde minimalist phase, with Wilson's magical, mysterious imagery to produce a show of total synthesis, the visual and the aural mutually dependent. In *Monsters of Grace* they are working together for the first time since that project, and it launches the Barbican's International Theatre Event, which runs for 22 weeks.

But if the Barbican thought it had landed a coup with this British premiere which it partly commissioned, times have changed: on this evidence the Glass-Wilson mix has lost its power to enchant, leaving us with a piece of total emptiness. *Monsters* lasts just 70 minutes, yet seems far longer than Wagner's *Parsifal*, with far fewer jokes.

Though Glass still has his faithful band of followers, who will lap up his music however banal and second-hand, the selling point of this show is its visuals.

Conventionally staged scenes, full of Wilson's familiar surreal movements and entranced juxtapositions, are alternated with computer-generated video projections for which the audience is supplied with 3-D spectacles, while the score is played and sung live in the pit by the Philip Glass Ensemble, con-

ducted by Michael Riesman. There is no narrative, just 13 self-contained scenes, with the texts taken from the 18th-century Anatolian poet, Jalaluddin Rumi, in desperately flat translations from the Persian by Coleman Barks. ("The singing art is sea foam. The graceful movements come from a pearl, somewhere on the sea floor.") There is no direct relationship between the stage and the musical settings, and the audience has to take Wilson's imagination on trust.

But if Glass's queasy music, full of predictable harmonies and mis-stressed vocal lines, is never likely to transcend itself, the greatest disappointment comes from the 3-D video, which never even measures up to the quality of a computer game.

A disembodied hand rotating in space and pierced by needles and cut by a knife, a sleeping polar bear prodded by an anonymous finger, helicopters flying across a mountain range, are all momentarily intriguing but almost immediately become quite empty of significance.

Working with actors, Wilson shows he is a magician, still capable of conjuring immense ungraspable power from a child walking across a stage, or a woman dangling her hand in a tank of water. The trouble is that in *Monsters* those visions carry no meaning beyond their beauty; the music simply isn't strong enough to provide a real counterpoint, and the whole turns out to be far less than the sum of its pretentious and vacuous parts.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

## US pulls plug on Suharto after army clears streets

Andrew Higgins in Jakarta and Mark Tran in New York

**S**HADOWED by the deserted skyscrapers of Jakarta's business district, unruly players played football yesterday on Sudirman Avenue, bereft of traffic and plunged into a menacing tranquillity by the most potent military display in an Asian capital since the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Near the Hilton hotel, a mile away, students reinforced their occupation of Indonesia's no longer impotent parliament.

And, after a day of both eerie order and defiant rebellion, President Suharto last night received a blunt ultimatum from the head of his own ruling party: resign by Friday or face impeachment. Further pressure came from his once zealous backers in Washington. The United States secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, urged Asia's longest-serving ruler to "preserve his legacy by stepping down."

The shift in US policy will come as a body blow. Until now, the Clinton administration had said only that Mr Suharto should implement political reform. Mrs Albright's statement indicated that the US believes his days are numbered, and that he should go peacefully. She said: "Now he has an opportunity for an historic act of statesmanship by stepping down." Her words were reminiscent of the language used by US officials when they urged President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines to quit.

With much of Jakarta under effective martial law, the opposition leader, Amien Rais, called off a planned "people's power" rally in Merdeka (Liberty) Square in front of the presidential palace. But instead of silencing a swelling chorus calling for Mr Suharto to go, a military display that left intersections clogged with tanks and flyovers studied with tanks only widened the rift between the two sides.

Mr Rais abandoned what he hoped would be a million-strong march after a late-night drive around the planned venue, the focus of the military's massive pre-dawn deployment, and a warning from a general that the military "did not care if an accident like Tiananmen Square happens".

Many in the city, fearing a repeat of last week's orgy of destruction, breathed a sigh of relief. There was no relief for Mr Suharto. In his home town of Yogyakarta, the cultural capital of Java, up to a quarter of a million protesters took to the streets. The industrial city of Surabaya endured a spasm of violence by troops dispersing protesters.

In Jakarta, the speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Harmoko, and leaders of the assembly's four factions promised students they would



A Jakarta youth passes troops and tanks who ringed the city centre yesterday. But students continued to occupy the parliament PHOTOGRAPH: MAYA VIDON

call a special session next Monday to set in motion the machinery of a constitutional coup if Mr Suharto does not quit by tomorrow.

The man who styles himself the Father of Development but now presides over a catastrophic economic and political implosion had a day earlier gone on television to promise new elections — but no timetable — in the hope of defusing the crisis. Yesterday, he retreated to the protection of his elite special forces.

But other troops, loyal to other commanders, smiled and even cheered busloads of protesting students on their way to parliament.

"There is only one stage left — the stand of the army

towards Suharto," Mr Rais, the Islamic leader, told students encamped in the parliamentary compound. "The army has two clear choices: protect a family that has got very rich over many years or join the people now."

Throughout the day calls for Mr Suharto's resignation belled from loudspeakers across the parliamentary grounds, occupied by thousands of students and strung with banners. The rhetoric grew as heated as the sun, dampened only in mid-afternoon by a sudden downpour.

On a podium bedecked with a sign saying "Hang Suharto", speakers denounced the president. "Does Suharto deserve to live in this country? When he

dies, does he even deserve to be buried in this country?" screamed one. A more moderate voice prevailed after the rain, urging students to come down from the roof. An architect had warned it might collapse.

Along with the buses that poured into the complex from campuses across the city, unmolested by a cheery phalanx of troops at the gates, arrived vans and trucks carrying supplies to feed the occupying army of students. Ahur Udin, the volunteer driver of a van stuffed with bananas and water, said he had taken time off work in a government ministry to help. "Until Suharto goes we will keep coming."

But the huge number of soldiers on the streets outside parliament — reports on their number ranged from 40,000 to 150,000 — and the din of helicopters overhead, left no doubt about the danger lurking behind the students' carnival. A throng of onlookers gathered outside the parliamentary complex, many of them drawn from impoverished nearby neighbourhoods that fuelled last week's looting, provided another reminder of the volatile forces far beyond the students' control. It is even unclear whether the students, blighted by the division and disorganisation that plague their elders, can control their own numbers.

Army's hard fist, page 6

## Resignations hit Arts Council reforms

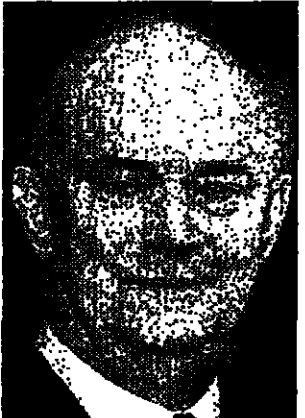
Dan Gjalster Arts Correspondent

**S**OME of the leading names in British theatre, including the playwright Sir Alan Ayckbourn, dealt a blow yesterday to the Government's attempts to reform the Arts Council when they resigned in protest.

Among the 15 members of the drama advisory panel who quit were Jude Kelly, the director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Sam Mendes, director of the Donmar Warehouse, and senior figures from the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal National Theatre and the Barbican Centre. The panel is chaired by the West End producer Thelma Holt.

The resignations were announced at the monthly meeting of the Arts Council's ruling body — the second meeting under the new chairman, Gerry Robinson, the chief executive of Granada.

As expected, the 23-member council, as the ruling body is known, also resigned to make



Alan Ayckbourn, one of 15 drama members who quit

way for a slimmed-down body of 10 to 12 members.

Other art form panels are to meet in the next few days to decide on their course of action. Should they follow suit and resign en masse, it would mark an unprecedented loss of expertise for the Arts Council.

The decision to resign is in protest at the removal of art

form panel representation on the ruling council. Under the new structure, drawn up by the new chief executive, Peter Hewitt, panel chairmen will not automatically have a place on the council.

Although this move has been accepted, the drama panel has been angered by proposals which mean that it will not necessarily be consulted about decisions that affect the theatre sector. Instead, the chairman or chief executive of the Arts Council will be able to invite representatives from the arts panels at their discretion. They will seek advice, not instruction, from the various panels.

The panels, one for each of the major art forms, each number around 15 members, all of whom provide their services voluntarily.

"These proposals sever the umbilical cord between the artists and the funding body," said Ms Holt. "We won't be party to the decision-making process. It smacks of the panels being used as scapegoats for decisions to which they have not been party. They are more interested in the ef-

icient running of it than the creative process."

Other drama panel members have expressed their dissatisfaction with the separation between the artist and decisions on funding. In a letter to be published today signed by the entire drama panel, they complain that the art form panels will be "mere talking shops" and the result "a bureaucracy less accountable, less accessible and in-

creasingly remote from artists and audiences."

Roger Chapman, head of touring at the National Theatre, said: "If you have an organisation in which decisions are made by people who are not artists and who do not consult with people in the industry, there will be some very strange decisions."

The Arts Council and the Department of Culture refused to comment.

Deborah MacMillan, the chair of the dance panel, said: "Gerry Robinson has some very good ideas, but I don't think he understands quite how complicated it is, and what angers me is that he hasn't bothered to find out. Behind it all is the Department of Culture. The arm's-length principle has been cut off up to the armpit."

Hugo Young, page 8

## DAN AYKROYD JOHN GOODMAN



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# Police fear new wave of terror as gunmen snatch three Old Masters

John Hooper and Philip Willan report from Rome on a puzzling robbery

**A** DEPRESSIVE gardener and a 40-year-old cafe owner's wife were last night apparently being held hostage after one of the most daring, successful and puzzling art thefts of recent years.

Marie Ginoux and the sad-faced peasant who tended the grounds of the asylum at San Remy were both depicted by Vincent Van Gogh in the final months of his life in and around Arles. Their paintings, together with Cezanne's unfinished masterpiece *Le Cabanon de Jourdan*, were found to have been seized by masked gunmen from Italy's National Museum of Modern Art early yesterday.

So far, all the signs are that this was no ordinary theft. The works stolen are too famous to be resold, and the available evidence suggested they were being held either to extort a ransom or secure as yet unspecified concessions from the Italian state.

Art experts said it was almost impossible to put a figure on the value of the haul. But one of the works, *The Gardener*, was thought 10 years ago to be worth £15 million.

Police were trying to authenticate a call to one of Italy's smaller news agencies yesterday. An unaccented male voice said: "We shall let you know all the conditions, including the political ones, for the return of the Van Goghs and the Cezanne."

Paul Cezanne's last oil work, painted in 1906, and Van Gogh's *The Gardener* and *L'Arlesienne*, which date from 1889 and 1890 respectively,

The gallery was protected by three unarmed women guards

gence. The gallery, which stands just outside the Villa Borghese park, tends to be overshadowed by the many in Rome displaying treasures from earlier periods. Yet it houses one of Italy's most important collections.

At the time of the robbery, its protection was entrusted to three unarmed women guards. The alarm system was not connected to the police, and the closed circuit TV cameras were out of order.

The alarm was raised by the manager of a bar attached to the gallery, yet his attempts to call the police emergency number elicited no response. In the end, he had to stop a passing patrol car.



Van Gogh's *The Gardener* and *L'Arlesienne* which may have been stolen to extort a ransom. *The Gardener* was valued at £15 million in 1988



## Mystery of 349 missing Picassos

Owen Bowcott

**C**ONNOISSEURS of detective novels may linger over the image of the purloined Impressionist canvases being contemplated by a monocled aesthete in the secrecy of his private castle.

The truth is likely to be less literary. Few of the hundreds of works of art which disappear from galleries each year are stolen to order for a criminal collector's secure back room.

Instead, they are wrapped up and put into bank vaults where they are stored, or sold on again, as collateral for cash in drug deals. Too easily identified Old Masters and modernist masterpieces are difficult to sell at auction.

"Sometimes they are taken to be ransomed," said Caroline Wakeford of the Art Loss Register, which maintains a database of missing works from around the world. "Often they are used as a form of currency between villains. The paintings sit in a bank vault and are used in a form of barter economy."

Evidence of private collectors' commissioning gangs to remove rare paintings from public collections

is hard to find. In 1984, five works by Camille Corot were stolen from a museum in Semur-en-Auxois. Four were later discovered in Japan, suggesting the thieves had been working for a single customer, but no one was arrested.

In this country, the Metropolitan Police arts and antiques squad is aware that many paintings end up being used as an under-world currency to finance drug deals. Easily stored, canvases rise in value over time and can be changed into any currency.

At the latest estimate, works of art valued at more than £1 billion are missing. They include 349 Picassos, 250 by the Russian artist Marc Chagall, 175 by Dali, 121 Rembrandts and 112 Renoirs.

Phil Sanders, managing editor of *Trace* magazine, said: "I don't believe in secret collectors. The thieves who took the paintings from Rome will try and sell them on or hold them to ransom. They simply went for the most valuable paintings in the room. The burglars do seem to be targeting good stuff. While burglaries in this country are down, the number of cases involving art and collectables is up."

## Plunder canvas

Caravaggio: *The Nativity*. Stolen in Italy in 1964. Never reappeared. Priceless.

Vermeer: *The Concert*. Worth more than £20 million. Stolen from Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, US in 1990.

Rembrandt: *Storm on Sea of Galilee*. Priceless. Stolen in same theft in Boston.

Titian: *Rest on the Flight from Egypt*. £5 million. Taken from Longleat House in 1995.

Turner: *Shade and Darkness and Light and Colour*. Worth £12 million each. Owned by Tate; stolen in 1994 while on loan to Frankfurt gallery.

Gustav Klimt: *Portrait of a Woman*. Stolen from Piacenza in 1997. Worth £5 million.

Jean Baptiste Oudry: *The White Duck*. Taken from Houghton Hall, Norfolk. Worth £5 million.

Kandinsky landscape scene stolen in France in June 1995. Estimated at £1 million.

Casper David Friedrich: *Nebelochaden (Mist)*. Theft in Frankfurt in 1994. Worth £7 million.

Francois Boucher: *Le Berger en dormi*. Stolen in France in 1996.

## Ruling means cheaper electrical goods

James Melkie and Teresa Hunter

**E**LECTRICAL goods such as washing machines, fridges and televisions could soon be up to £100 cheaper after the Government's decision to outlaw price-fixing from September.

Savings of up to 25 per cent were predicted by the Consumers' Association after Margaret Beckett, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said that restrictive practices had been denying consumers lower prices.

Mrs Beckett felt "tough action" was needed to deal with problems identified last year by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which

discovered widespread uniformity in prices. For instance, up to three-quarters of top-name television models were sold at prices within 5 per cent of that recommended by the manufacturers.

The American-owned discount retailer CostCo, which has been at the forefront of the battle to break the cartel, also believes prices should be at least 10 per cent lower.

Suppliers and some big retailers denied there would be any such impact from new rules that will also cover sales of video recorders, camcorders, hi-fi systems, tumble-driers, refrigerators, freezers and dishwashers, a market worth nearly £3.8 billion in 1996.

A Parliamentary Order under the 1973 Fair Trading Act will make it illegal for suppliers to restrict retailers from pricing products as they choose. They will also be required to supply stores that sell at a discount. Retailers will be barred from asking suppliers not to supply, or to apply pressure to, cut-price competitors.

Andrew Fisher, senior policy adviser at the Consumers' Association, said prices could fall by up to 25 per cent, especially for washing machines. "For the first time ever, there will now be true competition on the high street. Prices will come down... because now shops will have to give shoppers a reason to buy

from them rather than someone down the road."

Jim Murphy, managing director of CostCo, said: "In certain cases we have been refused supplies because of our discounts. That means we have to pay a middleman and prices go up."

Dixons and Comet, which dominate the market for electrical goods, argued that the abolition of recommended retail prices would have no impact on big ticket items, claiming competition is already cut-throat.

Manufacturers Sony UK could see "no reason why these new regulations will have any impact on retail prices for consumer electronics products which have

fallen consistently over the past 10 years."

Electrolux said recommended retail prices helped the customer to choose between models and brands. It selected retailers to ensure customers got good advice and service. Panasonic UK also claimed criticisms of price-fixing were unfounded and that recommended prices helped customers negotiate discounts.

The rules will be policed by the Office of Fair Trading, which will issue orders against companies failing to comply. Civil court proceedings would follow continued breaches with unlimited fines and imprisonment of directors the ultimate sanctions.

## Blair issues five pledges in Northern Ireland amid signs that Yes vote is strengthening

John Mullan, Ireland Correspondent

**T**ONY Blair flew to Northern Ireland last night for the third time in a fortnight, seeking to reassure Unionist waverers ahead of tomorrow's referendum on the Good Friday Agreement, amid signs that the Yes vote was growing stronger.

Mr Blair issued five pledges on a poster which will be displayed throughout Northern Ireland. He emphasises the primacy of the consent principle and that north-south bodies are accountable to the proposed assembly.

He also pledges fairness and equality for all; the

exclusion of terrorists from government; and that prisoners stay inside unless violence is given up for good.

Unionists opposed to the deal said the pledges failed to address real concerns.

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that Mr Blair should stop waving himself and start debating the issues.

Conservative leader William Hague was also in Northern Ireland. On a walkabout in Bangor, Co Down, he said he was satisfied with the assurance Mr Blair had given on the key points — proposals for the early release of paramilitary prisoners and Unionist fears that Sinn Fein presi-

dent Gerry Adams could be part of an executive in charge of a power-sharing administration without IRA weapons behind his back.

A telephone poll published in today's Irish Times puts those supporting the deal at 60 per cent, with 25 per cent voting No and 15 per cent undecided. The indications are that Unionist don't know are shifting towards the Yes camp.

The newspaper's poll last week suggested 56 per cent in favour, 25 per cent against and 19 per cent undecided. Yes campaigners argue that the impact of the Balcombe Street gang's appearance at the Sinn Fein conference 11 days ago is diminishing.

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Supporters insist the case against Parry and McLauchlan is profoundly flawed □ Angry family of the Australian victim demand 'pay up'

# Only the two nurses know the truth

PRESS RELEASE

19th May 1998

From the Office of Ambassador Ghazi Alqasbi

In response to a petition from the families of the two British nurses convicted of murder in Saudi Arabia, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, issued an order commencing the sentence of the two nurses to the period they have already spent in jail and ordering their release.

According to the judicial laws of Saudi Arabia, when the next-of-kin in a murder case waives the right to retribution, the Court can impose a discretionary jail sentence which the King can commute. This is what happened in this case.

I expect the two nurses to be back in the United Kingdom in the next couple of days.

## Rory Carroll examines claim and counter-claim in the case of the murdered Australian nurse

**D**ID they do it? Despite King Fahd's pardon, the two British nurses, Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, are still deemed guilty under Saudi law. Supporters insist neither was capable of murder and that the case against them was profoundly flawed.

The opaque system of Sharia law, in which three judges hear evidence behind closed doors, fed rumour and counter-rumour. Saudi leaders aimed at smearing the nurses were countered by newspaper campaigns apparently convinced of their innocence.

Parry and McLauchlan are probably the only people to know whether they killed Yvonne Gilford.

Once on British soil the verdict that matters is that of the public. Presumed innocent, and they join the ranks of the wronged. Presumed guilty, and they become pariahs, like O J Simpson.

**THE KILLING** On December 11, the day after a staff Christmas party, Miss Gilford's body was found in block 44 of the King Fahd medical centre in Dahrhan. She had been battered, suffocated and stabbed 13 times with her own kitchen knife. Police said Parry did the stabbing and that McLauchlan smothered the victim's cries with a cushion. Frank Gilford, Yvonne's brother, said he was shocked at the precision of the wounds.

Lawyers said there was no trace of blood on the knife and question marks hung over the quality of the post-mortem. Despite the fact that Miss Gilford was also smothered over the head with a teapot and had struggled so ferociously that furniture was strewn over her room, no forensic evidence was produced linking the two women to her killing. No trace of blood on their clothes, no fingerprints.

**MOTIVE** Prosecutors said Parry and 54-year-old Miss Gilford were having a lesbian affair which ended in violent argument. Lawyers said all three were heterosexual. McLauchlan was engaged. Parry had had two long-term relationships with men, and Miss Gilford had conducted a 20-year affair with a South African businessman. Miss Gilford was friendly with Parry and had a mother-daughter relationship with McLauchlan.

**CREDIT CARD** The Saudis said Miss Gilford's ATM credit card was used to withdraw 5,000 riyals (£862) — the daily maximum — on three successive days after her death from a cash-point at the Al Shulah trading centre where expatriates shopped. The person using the machine requested English instructions. Police suspicions fell on Parry and McLauchlan. McLauchlan, who faced a criminal prosecution in Britain over allegations that she used a terminally ill AIDS patient's credit card to steal £1,740, was caught attempting

to withdraw another £862 with Parry. Rubbish, said their lawyers. The withdrawals were made after their arrest. The prosecution failed to produce the security video they said recorded the withdrawals.

**OTHER SUSPECTS** The court never summoned a Saudi security guard said to have pestered Miss Gilford, nor the guards said to be angry that her loans to nurses undercut their money-lending racket. Some of those guards are missing, it is claimed. Reports differ over whether Miss Gilford lent money interest-free, or whether she was a loan-shark who hired a Filipino enforcer. McLauchlan denied owing Miss Gilford a lot of money.

**CONFESSIONS** After five days of questioning, both women made hand-written confessions, based on the premise of a lesbian relationship between Parry and Miss Gilford. They stated McLauchlan was called to Miss Gilford's room to remove Parry, who was refusing to accept their relationship was over. A row flared which ended in Miss Gilford's death. They repeated their confessions in front of three judges.

They later retracted, saying the statements were induced, without a lawyer present, through promises of immediate return home, sleep and food deprivation, assaults and threats of rape.

Michael Fisher, an experienced criminal lawyer who analysed the confessions, said parts did not ring true.



Frank Gilford yesterday after hearing of the nurses' pardon, and above left, how the Saudi ambassador broke the news

## The brother: 'I reckon the two must honour the deal'

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

**T**HE family of the murdered nurse Yvonne Gilford was clearly angered last night at the impending release of her convicted killers as their lawyers called for the immediate payment of \$1.7 million (about £860,000) compensation.

The victim's brother, Frank Gilford, said: "I reckon they should honour their deal. I reckon we have behaved with the utmost civility."

His lawyer, Michael Abbott, threatened legal action if the money, provided after Mr Gilford waived his right to demand the death penalty under Saudi law, was not handed over soon.

"I would not expect to have to go to court for them to do, for once, the right thing," Mr Abbott said. "But if we have

to go to court, we'll go to court."

The money, \$1.7 million of which Mr Gilford has promised to an Adelaide hospital in his sister's memory, is being held in a trust account by an independent law firm in Adelaide.

The lawyer who represents Parry and McLauchlan in Adelaide, Michael Burnett, said he was still awaiting instructions from the nurses' lawyer in Saudi Arabia before handing over the money. He would not comment on reports that the sum would only be released if Mr Gilford agreed publicly to refer to the payment as blood money, not compensation.

The nurses' Saudi lawyer, Salah al-Hejailan, said: "I have no intention of releasing the money until they accept it was blood money, until they say in public it was blood money."

In October Mr Gilford said he had accepted compensation for the killing but emphasised he did not regard it as blood money.

His reluctance to comment immediately is probably because he has learned the hard way to have all details of the many and often confusing developments in the case verified before speaking out.

Mr Gilford, a courier in the outback town of Jamestown, South Australia, has fought an expensive court battle to have the money released. He says he needs the money to cover legal expenses and costs.

The nurses' Adelaide lawyers argued in the supreme court in November that they wanted to be sure the Saudi courts had accepted Mr Gilford's decision to waive the death penalty before any payment was made.

## The lawyer: wily diplomat still fighting his corner

Owen Bowcott

**S**ALAH al-Hejailan, the Saudi lawyer who represented Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry throughout their captivity, hailed their early release yesterday as an example of "justice being served in a perfect way".

His comments in Riyadh sounded more like the musings of a diplomat than a solicitor celebrating legal vindication in the courts. But then Mr Hejailan has to operate within the confines of Saudi Arabia's strict Islamic code.

"I am very pleased and grateful for the early release pardon issued by the king," he said. "Justice has been served in a perfect way, in all dimensions. The position of the king is a shining aspect of Islamic justice."

"I feel very good about it and I think justice has been served after one year and a couple of months. I hope the two girls will consider this ordeal and tragedy to be behind them and will look forward to a new life."

Mr Hejailan made Saudi legal history as the first defence lawyer allowed into court. His clients still had to wear traditional prisoners' uniforms: black robes and chains.

Those close to the family suggest the relationship with Mr Hejailan was at best uneasy and sometimes generated confusion in Britain about who should speak on their behalf. "He's married to a member of the royal family and seemed to be playing political games," a confidant said.

Lawyers are not supposed to play games with clients when they are facing a death

sentence. They are not supposed to be concerned with the interests of a prince. There was a great deal of unease and discomfort."

Perhaps the distance added to the strain of the relationship. Last night, however, Mr Hejailan appeared to be still fighting for his clients' interests.

He refused to release the £750,000 to Frank Gilford, the brother of the murdered nurse, because the Gilford family insisted on calling it "compensation". "Compensation means admission of guilt — while the court said all along it's blood money," Mr Hejailan said.

He was not reneging on the promise of payment — the money is already held in Australia — but said it had not been decided whether all of the payment would be made.



## Ian Black on how London and Riyadh discreetly resolved a problem for their relationship

**N**O SPECIFIC deal was done to secure the release of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, but from the start Saudi Arabia and Britain wanted the issue resolved in a way that did not damage their wider relationship.

As Tony Blair and Robin Cook welcomed the pardon yesterday, describing it as a "generous humanitarian act", there were signs of relief all round that the matter had been concluded.

Both sides agreed that the key to a successful outcome was recognition that Saudi justice had to be seen to run its course and that public pressure from Britain for exceptional treatment would be counter-productive.

Hopes for a resolution rose after Mr Blair saw Crown Prince Abdullah during his visit to the kingdom last month, and when the foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, saw Mr Cook in London a few days later.

"Both recognised early on that this was a very contentious issue," one Middle East consultant said last night. "The British explained that they valued the relationship but that there was nothing they could do about public opinion. It was just one of those things they wanted to get out of the way."

But Foreign Office officials insisted that the case had never been more than a "serious consular issue" and that it was "nonsense" to suggest that the extensive web of strategic and economic ties between London and Riyadh was ever at risk.

Britain worries about the future of the £20 billion al-Yamamah arms deal with a country which still has the largest oil reserves in the world, is a key ally in a volatile region, and where the death of the ailing King Fahd could trigger a destabilising battle for succession.

Britain is the second largest investor in Saudi Arabia, where UK investment totals £2.5 billion. Saudi Arabia is Britain's 10th largest market. Relations have improved since serious strain over the activities in London of the dissident Mohammed al-Masari, who the Tory government minister tried and failed to deport.

"No one was ever desperately worried about it except for presentational reasons," one official said. "They weren't worried about it in the way they were about Masari. Both sides wanted it out of the way. It was an embarrassment. The Saudis now have a greater awareness that the reputation of the kingdom is not good in London."



King Fahd, whose pardon of McLauchlan and Parry (above left) is 'a shining aspect of Islamic justice', their lawyer said

don liberal dinner party and media circles. To have something like this happen in that context was particularly unhelpful."

Credit for the nurses' return was being given last night to Andrew Green, the British ambassador in Riyadh, and a veteran Foreign Office Arabist, and to Ghazi Alqasbi, the Saudi ambassador to Britain, who announced the release on Tuesday night.

"Green has been instrumental in getting to where we are," an FO colleague said. "His clear policy advice to ministers has been excellent, both on the way the case was likely to go through the Saudi legal system and also the close consular attention we were able to pay to the women."

"It was quicker than normal but our relationship is very good and we have sought to do our consular duty by the women and do our best for them. But this wasn't a result of UK pressure."

Dr Alqasbi said yesterday that King Fahd was already considering the petition for clemency when Mr Blair visited and that the Prime Minister had not appealed but simply "asked for an update".

The Saudi defence minister, Prince Sultan, insisted that the king had opted for clemency because it was part of Islamic law, or sharia, and not because of what he called "pressure from the international media".

The Saudis were disappointed by the intense cover-

age given the nurses' story, which they considered a routine murder case. Even the diplomats had rocky moments. Faced by British outrage when McLauchlan was sentenced to flogging last September, Dr Alqasbi said angrily: "We are not going to change our system, our religion and our customs to appease bleeding heart liberals."

Mr Cook, meeting Prince Saud at the United Nations at the time, was outspoken too, warning of "the very serious impact in Britain if the sentence was carried out." Mr Cook's praise for his Saudi counterpart's "sympathy", but was told bluntly: "Any form of interference in the legal process could only complicate the issue."

## The media: chequebooks are opened

Kamran Ahmed Media Correspondent

**A**S SOON as the communiqué came through from the Saudi ambassador one thing was certain in this story surrounded by confusion. Newspapers would open their cheque books and the numbers would start multiplying.

The media were under renewed scrutiny last night after the release of the Saudi nurses brought a frenzy of bidding from publications keen to buy up their story.

Despite strict rules which say that papers should not allow criminals to profit from their offences, it is understood that the Express and the Mirror have been successful in five and six-figure bids for the stories of the two nurses.

The Mirror is thought to have paid £100,000 for ex-

clusive interviews with Lucille McLauchlan, beating off bids from the Sun and the Daily Mail.

"The Express is thought to have paid £50,000 for the rights to Deborah Parry's story."

The Press Complaints Commission has already launched an inquiry into the payments after they received a complaint from George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Kelvin.

"These women have been convicted of murder and are extremely lucky to have avoided the normal penalties for murder in Saudi Arabia," he said in a letter to the director of the PCC, Guy Black.

"Surely [the bidding war] runs contrary to the code of practice of which you are the guardians."

Of course, we have been here before. The buying up of the nurses story main-

tain a long tradition. Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the PCC, had to issue a warning to the press about a bitter bidding war for the stories of convicted drug smugglers Patricia Cahill and Karyn Smith, pardoned on humanitarian grounds after serving sentences in Thailand.

Both were involved in book and film deals which are thought to have netted them tens of thousands of pounds.

Nick Leeson, the rogue trader who sparked the collapse of Barings Bank, has also signed book and film deals.

It is predicted that McLauchlan and Parry are likely to make up to £100,000 apiece from newspaper, book, television and film contracts. "So much depends on their mental state when they come back and what they feel capable of doing," said Max Clif-

ford, the publicity agent who has been advising the McLauchlan family.

There is one defence to breaking the code drawn up by the PCC to uphold the standards of the press — public interest.

The Mirror and the Express were both arguing last night that because the issue of innocence of the two nurses has yet to be definitively established, they were perfectly within their rights to offer lucrative contracts.

"We have paid her a substantial sum to provide some small compensation for two years spent in primitive, barbaric conditions," said Piers Morgan, editor of the Mirror.

"There is obvious and compelling public interest in this story, and because we believe her to be innocent there is no breach of the Press Complaints Commission code of conduct."

"As to George Galloway's ludicrous statement, I don't think we need to defend our ethical and moral position to a man who spends his lunchtime cosying up to Saddam Hussein and his evenings dining with Colonel Gadhafi."

Rosie Boycott, editor of the Express, said that her paper had stayed "strictly within" the PCC code.

The problem is that although the two nurses have been freed early, their conviction stands and the obvious conclusion, as with the case of Louise Woodward, is that foreign justice is justice that cannot be trusted.

The statement from the Saudi ambassador did not talk of a pardon but said that the sentence was "commuted" on the orders of the king. The nurses are still officially guilty. Neither the British government nor the Saudis have said anything different.



**There is horrendous snobbery at work, a contempt for the people — invariably women — who would willingly buy a decorated mug'**

Ros Coward on Diana memorabilia

G2 p5

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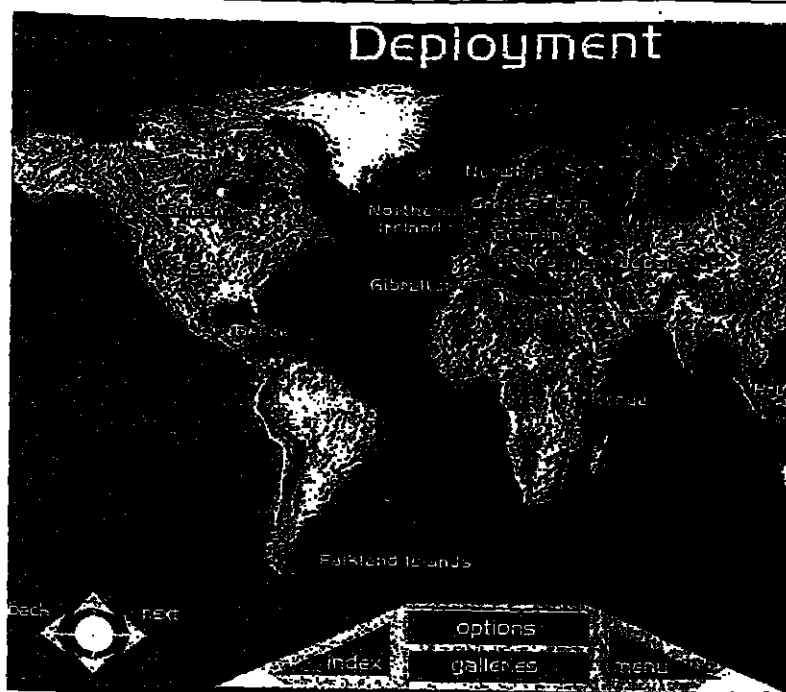
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## Deployment

**Army attempts to combat its recruitment crisis with a virtual offensive on teenagers reared on diet of computer games**

ASSEMBLING an SA80 rifle, learning to survive in the jungle and leading an assault on a farmhouse to rescue hostages are not the stuff of the typical educational computer program, writes Stuart Miller.

But today, confronted by dwindling recruitment figures and ignorance of its role, the army will launch the latest offensive in its glossy publicity campaign with First Contact, a hi-

tech attempt to appeal to the previously untapped teenage market. The interactive CD-Rom introduces young players to the rigours of life in a virtual army, from basic training to becoming a general. As well as five survival and attack games, it contains an information section which its designers claim is the "most complete resource on the British army ever assembled".

The Ministry of Defence

insists First Contact is primarily educational. "The CD is an opportunity to promote the army to a youthful games-playing public, a section of the community we have not addressed before," said John Reid, the armed forces minister. Senior officers also hope it will tackle the recruitment crisis which this year fell 5,000 short of its new recruits target.

The drought has been brought on by a decline in

physical standards in 16 to 25-year-olds. In 1996, a scheme was launched to improve the fitness of potential recruits after almost one in five failed the basic fitness level taken by all applicants before admission to phase one training. Around 27,000 copies of the CD have been produced at a cost of £100,000. Most will be distributed free through libraries, but the army will retain 4,000 to help train existing staff.

It was designed over a 15-month period by the Somerset company Orchard Communications. "Before we started doing any programming or designing we went out with the army on various exercises," said Phil Crane, a director. The information section includes the complete histories of the rifle, the helicopter, the tank and artillery as well as data on equipment in

service — all illustrated with video clips and still photographs. But it is the five games which will provide the biggest attraction, although to negotiate them successfully players will need to have digested much of the data from the information section.

Designed to give a flavour of the army, the games begin with basic training at First Base, in which players learn map craft, rank

recognition and how to assemble an SA80 rifle. After jungle survival training on the second level, players are sent to coordinate the Royal Engineers relief mission of the remote, hurricane-stricken African island of Taunus, before moving on to combat scenarios. They are asked to lead an assault on a farmhouse, then become "virtual generals" with helicopters and tanks to attack an enemy base.



Abbotsbury's homosexual swans sharing a meal. The two males have built a nest, keep clear of females, and have carried out an elaborate courtship ritual. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD AUSTIN

## When two swans do not make a cygnet

Geoffrey Gibbs

LIKE hundreds of other couples on the lagoon around them, the two magnificent birds went through an elaborate courtship ritual, nodding their heads, making a heart shape with their necks and touching bills.

A nest was built and a wandering female was chased away, but there will be no eggs in that nest. The centuries-old swannery at Abbotsbury in Dorset has its first gay couple.

Swanherd Dick Dalley says he has known nothing like it in the 36 years he has managed the 600-strong colony. Others are also per-

plexed. "It is certainly uncommon and not something I have ever heard of before," said an RSPB spokesman. "It's totally contrary to the idea of a homosexual bird."

The Abbotsbury couple first paired off and built a nest last year. But although they behaved like a male and female, closer examination has now shown them both to be cobs.

"I don't know why this has happened," Mr Dalley said. "It's just that they like one another's company."

Specialists at the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, said they were surprised. "It is unusual be-

haviour, though not totally unheard of," a trust spokeswoman said. "Before they begin breeding immature swans will display to each other and presumably they will sometimes get it wrong. But in this case they are not young swans and we can't shed any light as to why they are doing it."

The Abbotsbury swannery dates back at least to the 14th century. The swannery belonged to Benedictine monks until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1534, when it came under the protection of the Strangways family — later the Earls of Ilchester — who still continue to run it today.

## New life for Parkinson's sufferers

Sarah Hall reports on surgery making possible instant relief from tremors

GRAHAM Sandcock, aged 52, has been gripped by Parkinson's disease for 15 years. Yesterday he was in the midst of a particularly bad tremor — until, when he brushed a tiny magnet past his left collar bone, the involuntary jiggling that had seized his body, ceased.

His abrupt transformation was part of a demonstration yesterday in London of the effect of a new form surgery that is being called the most significant advance in treatment of the debilitating neurological disorder for more than 30 years.

Active Parkinson's Control Therapy can transform "a rigid, drizzling patient into someone who can walk off the operating table," said Steven Gill, a consultant neurosurgeon at Frenchay hospital in Bristol. Mr Gill, who treated Mr Sandcock, believed that as many as 20,000 of the 125,000 Parkinson's sufferers in Britain could have their lives transformed.

A neurostimulator, a pacemaker-like device, is implanted on the chest wall and four tiny electrodes are deep in the brain. When the hand-held magnet activates the device, a mild current flows to the electrodes and blocks over-active nerve cells responsible for the rigidity or spasms. Equilibrium is restored at once.

So far 30 people have had the surgery, which is being seen as a long-term alternative to the standard treatment, levodopa, a drug which ceases to have any effect for up to 80 per cent of patients returning in the sea last week. "It is also preferable to con-

ventional surgery on both sides of the brain which gives a 25 per cent risk of losing speech compared to a 1-2 per cent risk with the new surgery.

The treatment is not a cure for the disorder, but, as well as reducing symptoms, it can reduce medication to a sixth of the normal dosage.

Most importantly, the treatment can be altered — or stopped completely — should side effects, such as speech impairment, occur. "You can adjust the effect of the operation on the individual patient by increasing the amount of current or stimulation," said Mr Gill.

There are drawbacks: the neurostimulators need adjusting every six weeks during the early months, and have to be replaced after five years.

And the cost — £15,000 for an operation on one side of the brain, or £20,000 for an operation to both sides — is significantly more than the £7-10,000 of conventional surgery. Because of the cost few health authorities will fund the treatment, according to Mr Gill. He said he believed such rationing was wrong: "The important thing is to see what a huge difference this has made to someone like Graham Sandcock. When you are rationing health services, you have to look at individuals."

For Mr Sandcock the surgery has proved priceless. A father-of-two from Crediton in Devon, he had been a painter and decorator until becoming bedridden after 11 years of the disease.

"It's completely changed my life," he said. "Before the surgery, the medication was shaking all day and all night. Sometimes it was so bad I would literally shake out of bed. I felt totally helpless."

"But now I can wash myself, dress myself, go for a walk on my own. I even went swimming in the sea last week."

## Man wrongly named on birth certificate wins law change

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

THE law is to be changed to make it easier for a man wrongly registered as the father of a child to have his name removed from the birth certificate.

The move follows an 11-year battle by Alan Veale to amend the birth certificate of the boy born to his wife as the result of an affair. Mr Veale, from Blackpool, eventually took his case to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, but the Government agreed yesterday to amend the law and pay him £500 compensation to settle the case.

The boy, named only as T, was born in April 1987 and his birth was registered with Mr Veale named as the father, though by then divorce proceedings were under way. Mr Veale's wife told him soon after T's birth that he was not the father. She brought paternity proceedings against the other man, swearing that Mr Veale was not T's father, and blood tests excluded him from paternity. Mr Veale, who has since

remarried and had a daughter, tried to get the birth certificate amended, but the law allowed such a change only if two people who knew about the true circumstances swore statutory declarations. The boy's mother and real father refused to provide declarations, and the doctor who had performed the blood tests had died.

Mr Veale's MP instigated an adjournment debate in Parliament, but was told that neither ministers nor the registrar general could change the birth certificate. The Government has agreed to amend the law to allow one statutory declaration from someone knowing the circumstances, plus a court order stating that the father named is not the biological father.

Philip Leach, director of law and policy at the human rights group Liberty, who represented Mr Veale in Strasbourg, said: "The erroneous record has had a continuous, direct and distressing effect on Mr Veale's private life and that of his family. He has fought long and hard just to establish a simple biological truth."

## Worry over 'outing' of paedophiles

Alan Travis and Kamal Ahmed

LORD Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has called an inquiry into the naming of paedophiles by local and national newspapers after a complaint from chief probation officers that it is wrecking attempts to keep offenders under official supervision.

The decision to tackle one of the most fraught areas of newspaper campaigning came after the commission received a list of 10 incidents in which other people had been attacked or surveillance of offenders had been disrupted because paedophiles had been identified.

In one incident a 67-year-old man was beaten up and daubed with paint after residents mistook him for a man pictured in the Manchester Evening News.

In another, the News of the World named a paedophile who was under 24-hour surveillance by police. The man, in voluntary contact with the probation service, had to be moved and had since become untraceable.

The commission acted after receiving the report from the Association of Chief Probation Officers, which said it was worried about the growth of newspaper "paedophile registers" and campaigns to "out" child sex offenders.

Howard Lockwood, the association's chairman, said there were too many cases in which newspapers had become too involved in campaigns and demonstrations and in which their "heavily editorialised coverage" was shaking all day and all night. Sometimes it was so bad I would literally shake out of bed. I felt totally helpless.

"But now I can wash myself, dress myself, go for a walk on my own. I even went swimming in the sea last week."

The officers want the commission to draw up ground rules so that local newspapers can cover stories without undermining the complex police and probation supervision arrangements. The Bournemouth Echo was one of the first to launch a newspaper register, claiming it was an important service to readers. The News of the World launched a paedophile "hotline", asking readers to give the whereabouts of people they thought were offenders.

Efforts to re-settle the paedophile Sidney Cooke were disrupted after papers in Bristol and Yeovil published articles demanding that he be moved.

Lord Wakeham said: "This is clearly an important and very difficult issue which I am sure the commission will be able to guide the sort suggested by the association may be a possible way forward." The commission is concerned that the code controlling the behaviour of the press and protecting people's privacy lacks detail on reporting on released sex offenders. "If we do issue guidelines then they must work. It is a very delicate area but there is real concern," a source said. Local newspapers have defended themselves against charges of whipping up public hysteria. An editorial in the Hartlepool Mail, criticised for outing a former offender, said: "We make no apologies for focusing the spotlight on a convicted paedophile. We would argue that it is grossly unfair to the people living in an area that someone like this should be placed among them in secret."

Leader comment, page 9

## News in brief

### West cousin jailed for sex attacks

A COUSIN of the notorious Cromwell Street multiple murderer Fred West was jailed for four years yesterday for a series of sex attacks on teenage girls. The conviction of William Hill, aged 45, at Birmingham crown court marked the final act in Gloucestershire police's long inquiry into the mass murderer and his family.

West and his wife Rosemary preyed on young girls and women, imprisoning, raping and torturing their victims, whose dismembered bodies were buried in their cellar and garden at 35 Cromwell Street, Gloucester.

Hill, an unemployed farm worker who regularly visited the Wests' house until he married in 1985, was found guilty on one count of rape and three of indecent assault against three schoolgirls.

Passing sentence, Judge Peter Crawford QC said Hill had used the girls for his own sexual gratification when they visited his former home in Much Marcle, Herefordshire, between 1976 and 1984.

Hill was cleared of the rape and indecent assault of a fourth girl. None of the girls told of the attacks for at least 13 years. Hill was the tenth and last on a list of suspects compiled by police as a result of their investigations into assaults connected to Cromwell Street. — Owen Bowcott

### British beaches dirtier

BRITISH beaches became dirtier last year, and Blackpool was the worst offender, with seven of its eight beaches listed as unsafe for swimming, the European Commission reported yesterday in its latest annual survey. Blackpool shared the title of Europe's least wholesome beach with the French Riviera resort of St Tropez, where all six beaches were found to have "water of insufficient quality".

Overall, Britain had the worst record in Europe, with 50.4 per cent of its beaches not qualifying for the minimum standard on faecal contaminants, up from 48.6 per cent in 1996. "The UK has made a small step back and needs to improve in compliance next year," the commission commented.

The next worst offender was France, with 25.7 per cent of beaches failing to comply with the standards, followed by Belgium with 23.1 and Finland with 21.3. The whole of the Irish Sea shoreline from Saltricks in Scotland to Ballyholme in Northern Ireland, Seascale in Cumbria to Southport in Lancashire was marked by beaches which failed the EU water quality test.

Altogether, Britain had 57 "red dot" beaches from the 496 sampled, and 24 of them were in the north-west, on the Irish Sea,

while 50 per cent of Europe's beaches reached the EU's minimum quality requirements. — Martin Walker

### Judge admits drink driving

A JUDGE who admitted driving while at more than three times the drink drive limit was disqualified for 30 months yesterday. John Aspinall QC, aged 29, resigned as a recorder of the court in April and could face a Bar Council disciplinary hearing.

He was also fined £1,800 by magistrates in Blandford, Dorset, and ordered to pay £70 prosecution costs. The magistrates' chairman, Anthony Jagger, told Aspinall that his ban could be reduced by six months if he completed a driver rehabilitation course by March 20, 2000. Aspinall pleaded guilty to driving with excess alcohol in his blood on the A351 near his home in Spetsbury, Dorset, on April 10. Peter Tewkesbury, prosecuting, said an intoximeter reading given by Aspinall showed 122mg of alcohol per 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mg.

### Runaway lorry 'cleared'

THE owners of the runaway lorry that required a big police operation on the M1, said yesterday they had found nothing wrong with the vehicle. Driver Michael Rayner, aged 28, survived a harrowing 20-mile ordeal last week after claiming the accelerator pedal of his Scania lorry had jammed and he could not stop.

But the Kent-based company Polkrest said it had found "no reason for concern with either the truck or ancillary equipment". The waste management company from Wrotham added: "The vehicle braking system was found to be fully operational and we believe the vehicle was capable of a controlled stop."

Mr Rayner lost control of his vehicle as he headed south towards the end of the M1 on May 10. He had been able to alert police via his mobile phone and a fleet of patrol cars and a police helicopter helped clear motorists out of the way of the runaway lorry. He was finally able to turn the engine off.

### Airbus's double fault

A PASSENGER jet made two unscheduled landings at the same airport yesterday after mid-air alerts about an engine. The Monarch Airlines Airbus A320, carrying 156 passengers and seven crew, had just left Manchester bound for Verona, Italy, when the captain noticed oil being lost from the right-hand engine. He diverted to Luton airport to have the fault checked, the airline said. An oil can was found to be incorrectly fitted and the plane took off, but the oil indicator showed that the right-hand engine was still losing oil, and the captain returned again to Luton. The aircraft was withdrawn and the passengers left later on another.

## Press hunt

Bournemouth Evening Echo launched its own register of paedophiles in 1996, listing names and the areas convicted people lived in. In one story it said a man convicted of child assault was "up to his old tricks". One offender and his wife and child were burnt out of their house. The probation service was angered when the paper published the child's name.

Manchester Evening News The paper ran a series of articles "outing" convicted paedophiles. In February 1997 an innocent 67-year-old man was attacked by a vigilante group after the paper published a picture of a paedophile resembling him. In 1996 it published details of a man with a known record of assaults on children. A photograph of a man sitting in his car behind a smashed

windscreen was used. The paper said a vigilante mob had vented their anger.

Worcester Evening News The paper published details of a child rapist who had been released from jail and housed near the girl he had attacked. The man, described as a "high risk offender" by the probation service, was under police surveillance which had to be dropped after he was harassed and left his flat. The probation service said tracking him was "now causing problems".

Hartlepool Mail The paper said it had a public duty to notify readers of paedophiles living in their area. One offender it named had to be moved several times after hostile public meetings. The paper had discovered where he was after his son sent it a letter from his father. Eventually the man was moved to a hostel 100 miles away.

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## Grisly find for Belgian police

Martin Walker in Brussels

**P**OLICE were yesterday examining five human skulls and seven other fragments of bone found among rubbish in Belgium.

"They are all at least 10 years old, perhaps much older. There are no flesh remnants on them and they appear to come from seven different bodies," a harassed police spokesman said yesterday as the media began scenting another Belgian serial killing horror.

A refuse worker found the remains in a bin bag which had been left in an open container on a street in Ranst, outside Antwerp.

The government is still reeling from the brief escape of Marc Dutroux, the suspected killer of four young girls, two weeks ago.

Other recent horrors have included the discovery earlier this year of seven bodies in a priest's home in Brussels. And the so-called Butcher of Mons is still on the loose after killing and dismembering five victims near the French border.



Prime minister Sergei Kiriyenko and President Boris Yeltsin (above) put on a brave face during a Kremlin meeting yesterday. Students and teachers (left) march through Moscow in protest at education budget cuts

## Miners' blockade cuts Russia in two

James Meek in Moscow

**U**NPAID coal miners stepped up their blockade of the Trans-Siberian railway yesterday, cutting the world's largest country in two and forcing the government of the region at the heart of the dispute to declare a state of emergency.

Governor Aman Tuleyev, a popular local leader who treads a delicate path between his communist sympathies and co-operation with the Yeltsin regime, said wagons loaded with explosives and toxic chemicals were among 100 trains trapped by the dispute.

Although the miners' sit-in on the rails is illegal, Mr Tuleyev said force would not be used to remove them. His words were echoed by the prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, who said sending in riot police would make the situation worse.

The authorities intend to use force against the miners can only be construed as a provocation," he said at a meeting with union representatives in the Kremlin.

Many coal miners have not been paid for half a year. Pits are being shut down, leaving workers and families locked in dead towns — moving to

find work is difficult under strict registration laws.

Working pits cannot or will not pay miners on time, mainly because power stations and foundries cannot or will not pay for coal — part of the chain of debt that hobbles the Russian economy.

The latest protests involve small numbers of miners — hundreds rather than thousands — but are causing greater alarm than previous strikes because of the blockade tactics. More troubling for the Kremlin is that the miners have put their demand for the resignation of President Yeltsin ahead of their demand to be paid.

"We'll only get up off the rails once we've got Yeltsin to go," one group said yesterday. Past miners' protests have fizzled out but Mr Yeltsin can never forget it was mass demonstrations in the Soviet coalfields which helped to hasten the USSR to its grave.

The Trans-Siberian forges as it passes through the Kuzbass, four time-zones east of Moscow, and miners have now blockaded both branches in several places. With no proper road traversing Russia, this means the main transport artery connecting European Russia, western Siberia and the Urals with the rest of Siberia and the Russian far east has been cut.

East of the blockade lie territories like Krasnoyarsk — new power base of the ambitious ex-general Alexander Lebed — Irkutsk and Vladivostok. The chronic energy shortages that have plagued Vladivostok for years could be worsened by the crisis. Yesterday Russian marines shot and wounded a man trying to steal fuel from a Pacific Fleet depot.

In the Rostov region of southern Russia, miners blockaded another railway, leading from the north to resorts on the Black Sea. In Vorkuta in the Arctic, another militant miners' stronghold, protesters detained the mayor in his office.

Mr Kiriyenko's two deputies, Boris Nemtsov and Oleg Syusuev, are due to fly to the Kuzbass and Rostov today to meet miners' leaders. But this is a bad time to be looking for extra money. The Asian crisis has chased foreign investors out of Russia, the cost of borrowing to support the budget deficit has shot up, the collapse in world oil prices has slashed revenue, and the prime minister favours public spending cuts.

The communists mustered enough votes in parliament yesterday to start impeachment proceedings against Mr Yeltsin, but this stands almost no chance of succeeding.

## Army elite shows a hard fist



In Jakarta, more students arrive to join the occupation of parliament. Troops have taken a relaxed attitude to the invasion of the rubber-stamp assembly, but in the city of Surabaya yesterday special reserve forces cracked down hard on attempted street protests

## John Aglionby in Surabaya sees a hated Suharto unit in action

**T**HE first shot was greeted with incredulity by the crowd of protesters, many of whom had driven up on mopeds and were clutching sweetly scented tropical flowers. But after a volley was fired into the air, fear and panic took hold.

Those in the 2,000-moped convoy who could turn and flee careered down side-roads and the narrow alleys of Indonesia's second largest city, chased by soldiers lashing out with rattan canes and wooden clubs.

Others, trapped by the weight of numbers all around them, tried to reason with their attackers. They came under a hail of blows and headed for the alleys. When the troops ran out of humans to hit, they turned their crazed attentions on the riderless mopeds.

These were not regular soldiers. The force bent on crushing anti-government protests yesterday in Surabaya was the strategic reserve, commanded by Mr Suharto's son-in-law, Lieutenant-General Prabowo Subianto.

The sound of breaking

headlights and twisting metal mingled with the gunfire and screams of panic. After some minutes the firing stopped, but people who ventured to the top of the alleys found swarms of soldiers driving onlookers and demonstrators back down the passage ways.

I made it out of the alley where I was hiding but was forced by renewed gunfire to take cover after only about 50 yards behind a corrugated iron fence. This time the shooting was in response to angry onlookers throwing stones at a lorry-load of the hated strategic reserve troops on the other side of the road.

The military driver stopped, turned his vehicle and drove straight across the central reservation, destroying the five-foot fence between the carriageway, and headed straight for the stone throwers.

As we ran, a youth handed me a bullet case. He said: "Take this to Mr Clinton and tell him how our own soldiers are violating our basic rights." But the most common cry from the hundreds of people now lining the streets was a warn-

ing. One person, echoing what many others said, shouted: "We are so angry. Come back tonight mister and you will see this place go up in flames."

At a first-aid post manned by medical students, seven demonstrators, six of them students, were being treated for head, arm and leg injuries. Four others had been taken to hospital. The final count last night was 50 injured, and 15 arrested, but the rage left by the troops lingered in the night air.

**It was a medieval joust, but one with lorries fronted in barbed wire**

Dr Edi Bintoro, in charge of the little medical centre, was struggling to hold back his tears as he attended the wounded. "This is not like Indonesia," they behaved like animals," he said of the soldiers. "I am so emotional. I don't know what to say. I thought Indonesian people were not like that."

The convoy of 2,000 mopeds was always going to cause trouble — force had already been used against

another student demonstration two hours earlier when protesters were dispersed by troops lashing out with wooden clubs and by unmarked lorries with barbed-wire front grilles.

The confrontation between the moped procession and the strategic reserve came as the protest convoy ground to a halt on a trip to the rubber-stamp assembly to demand an advertisement extolling the virtues of Indonesian industry.

It was like a medieval joust on wheels. Two of the army's lorries, fronted with barbed wire, drove out of the late afternoon sun, towards the mopeds. The lorries contained heavily armed strategic reserve soldiers and a dozen motorcyclists carrying members of the special forces — a force Gen Prabowo also commanded until recently, and one which remains strongly loyal to him.

The troops' commander climbed on to the roof of the car used by the leaders of the protest convoy. He told the thousands of demonstrators to keep calm. He said he was willing to negotiate.

A settlement appeared to be reached, against a backdrop of engines being revved by the increasingly impatient riders. Student

negotiators returned to their vehicles triumphantly punching the air. But before they could set off, the gunfire began.

It came from two more barbed-wire fronted trucks that had made their way through from the back of the convoy. There had been no provocation. But the green-beretted strategic reserve seemed to have no compunction about turning its guns on those protesting against Indonesia's aging autocrats.

This was spelled out very clearly earlier in the day at Surabaya's Teacher Training College. There, more than 3,000 students decided to take their protest calling for President Suharto's immediate resignation on to the streets. When it seemed the police were going to let the march proceed, nine army motorbikes and two lorries full of reserve troops arrived on the scene.

The officer in charge said if the students so much as attempted to force their way through, "we will not hesitate to open fire". The students quickly retreated to their campus.

One of the protest organisers, Anton, said: "It's not that we are not prepared to become victims, but we do not want to die unnecessarily."

## Asparagus farmers dig in

Ian Traynor in Bonn

**F**ROM the Bavarian hills to the northern plains, Germany's asparagus farmers are in revolt.

The Whitsun harvest of the "king of vegetables" normally brings an influx of cheap, industrious Poles to do the back-breaking work few Germans would contemplate.

But the combination of forthcoming elections and record unemployment has caused Bonn to bar about 30,000 Poles from German farms while the country's dole offices are forcing the jobless into the fields.

The result is that asparagus tips are rotting and being dug back into the earth, prompting apoplectic farmers to threaten to sue the government for their losses.

"Just to look at some of the fields would bring tears to your eyes," said Wolfgang Böser, head of the association of south German asparagus growers. He reckons his members have lost £1 million, while 15 per cent of this year's bumper crop is going unharvested.

The government, wrestling with 4.4 million jobless, has echoed Norman Tebbit's celebrated injunction to the unemployed to get on their bikes and look for work and decided to curb the work permits for east Europeans who come in the spring and stay until the autumn grape harvest.

The scheme has not been a resounding success. "We'd never get the grapes in without our Polish friends to help us," said a north Bavarian vintner.

"Last year I took on a local lad who had no work. He

lasted a day or two then never showed up again."

Some 200,000 Poles migrate every spring and summer for the harvest, but this has been cut by up to 15 per cent. The labour ministry in Bonn, contemptuous of the farming lobby's complaints, says wealthy farmers are upset because they have over-expanded. It says farmers are having to use asparagus as manure because of a record crop and falling prices.

Unemployed Germans are earning less than £200 a week to pick asparagus — little more than they can get on the dole.

One farmer said he was promised 50 labourers by the dole office last week. Only 25 showed up. By 10am on the first morning there were 10 left and by the afternoon he had no one to pick his vegetable king.

## Domestic clash for Netanyahu

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

**I**SRAEL's first family is split over the fate of their own chief spin-doctor who was quoted in this week's New Yorker as bemoaning Benjamin Netanyahu's philandering and describing the prime minister's wife, Sara, as mentally unstable.

A government official described Mrs Netanyahu as being "out to get" David Bar-Ilan, a former concert pianist who has served as Mr Netanyahu's media adviser since his election in 1996. But Mr Netanyahu is reportedly keen to keep Mr Bar-Ilan, a confidant who has successfully defused a string of public relations crises in the past two years.

"In a way it's an interesting test," said the Israeli official. "If David goes, then we'll know just how powerful Sara is." The extent of the first lady's influence has been a source of as much press fascination as her idiosyncratic behaviour.

Last December, a lengthy newspaper profile of the 39-year-old former flight attendant alleged she had taken over a suite of rooms next to the prime minister's office into a Byzantine backyard, hiring and firing as the fancy took her and deploying state-employed bodyguards to pick up scraps of food dropped by the Netanyahu's young children.

In the New Yorker's Letter from Jerusalem article, the reporter David Remnick took Mrs Bar-Ilan as saying: "Look, Sara is not the most stable woman in the world," and suggesting that her public appearances had been

restricted to limit the political damage they caused.

On the subject of his boss's self-confessed adultery, Mr Bar-Ilan is reported to complain: "One thing is to have an affair with a *shiksa* [gentile woman] but a married woman!"

The article, a profile of Mr Netanyahu entitled *The Outsider*, also cites the garrulous 68-year-old spokesman as saying Moshe Dayan, Israel's soldier-hero of the 1967 war, "screwed half the women in the army", provoking instant fire from the Dayan family for his dismissal and prosecution.

"This is just to show what kind of journalism we're talking about," said a press office employee.

The video was due to be aired on Israeli television last night, but it seemed likely only to strengthen the theory, widely held in the Jerusalem press corps, that Mr Bar-Ilan had assumed a conversation with Mr Remnick was an unattributable briefing.

The reporter, a Pulitzer Prize winner, told Israeli radio that he had every reason to believe the interview was on the record. "We sat down in his office. I had my notebook out and was taking notes... There was never any mention of 'off the record'"

Back at his office yesterday for the first time since the affair erupted, Mr Bar-Ilan insisted the quotes had been fabricated. "They were distorted in such a fashion that they came out meaning the opposite from what was meant."

However he said he would not take action against the US magazine.

The government public relations machine was hitting back in other ways yesterday. In the Jerusalem Post, an English-language daily which Mr Bar-Ilan edited before en-

tering government, a front-page article accused the New Yorker of copying other quotes without attribution.

Last night the prime minister's press office issued a transcript of a videotaped conversation between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Remnick discussing "the rules of the game" for their interview, during which the journalist appears to agree to check the quotes used with the prime minister's office. But there is no mention of an interview with Mr Bar-Ilan.

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## American aid fosters regime rivals

Tim Weiner in Washington

**T**HE CLINTON administration has given crucial support to leading Indonesian opposition groups, even as it has tried to shore up President Suharto.

The money comes from the Agency for International Development, better known for building dams and roads than for funding opponents of au-

thoritarian leaders.

The sum, \$16 million since 1995, is small among United States foreign-aid programmes. But it has been vital to the survival of groups that support human rights and free speech.

The money is the largest source of income for groups like the Indonesia Legal Aid Society, which is giving free legal advice to political figures and students arrested in

the current crisis.

AID has supported 30 non-governmental organisations in Indonesia. They include an environmental group fighting a US mining company on behalf of people who live near the company's projects, journalists whose work was banned by the government, a women's rights group and a consumer rights foundation.

Peter Galbraith, a former senior counsel to AID, said:

"The idea was to send a message that the United States was concerned about something other than the banks and the economic issues, that we thought about the ordinary people of Indonesia, and to prepare for a possible transition from Suharto to what we hope will be a more democratic and stable system."

William Little, professor of Indonesian studies at Ohio University and a former AID

consultant, said the programme had been a success.

"A democracy requires a civil society," he said. "Indonesia has been like the Soviet Union. The government controls most civil society organisations. It creates them or determines who their leaders are. The point of the programme was to try to develop these groups. The groups are now leading figures in the opposition." — *New York Times*.



# Flight into devastation and despair

**Gary Younge** takes a trip to the scorched earth of Sierra Leone's diamond district aboard the helicopter at the centre of the arms affair

**J**UBA flies low, fast and in three dimensions. It's the best of both worlds, you can have that way you don't give the rebels any time to spot you. And if you keep moving up or down and across then it's difficult for them to track you," he says in a thick African accent.

Then he takes out a map and charts the route over rebel territory and through the hills to Koidu, the main city in the diamond-mining district of Kono.

"If you hear something like the tapping of a typewriter then that will be the rebels firing at us. But don't worry," he says.

It is the first time he has flown Bokkie to Koidu in more than six months. Bokkie is the Sandline International-owned helicopter that was at the centre of the controversy over the supply of arms to Sierra Leone. This is the helicopter which carried 36 tons of military hardware into the country during February's counter-coup and in which Juba flew Nigerian-led Ecomog forces to liberate the capital, Freetown.

Bokkie, which was made by Russians and bought by mercenaries in Bulgaria, cuts urgent zig-zags in the air. At times it flies just 5 metres from the ground.

Perched at the open door at the front with a large gun is Fred, a tall, handsome ex-SAS man from F14 who helped storm the Iranian embassy in London in 1980.

At the back there is a Nigerian gunner from the West African peacekeeping force, Ecomog. At either end there is a beefy, bearded Boer — both former soldiers in the South African army — from the security firm Lifeguards.

In the middle are two British businessmen who work in diamond recovery. They want to see how much damage the rebels have done to their investment.

Arriving at Koidu, the helicopter circles a scene of destruction. When the rebels were chased out by Ecomog a few weeks ago they looted and burned the town, leaving only the mosque intact.

Operation No Living Thing sent Koidu's 5,000 inhabitants

fleeing into the bush. If soldiers from the former junta had carpet-bombed the town they could not have been more effective.

Those who could not escape were either killed or abducted by the rebels. Boys were taken to carry their weapons; girls and women to cook and be raped.

"They asked us if we had any food. When I said no, they just took away my 14-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son and left me with one boy," said Sahr Mokuwa.

From the ground the town looks like a charred shell. Burned-out cars carrying rebel slogans line streets paved with rubble.

"This was not a war, it was

## Turner money to rehabilitate child soldiers

**T**HE United Nations will undertake projects to demobilise child soldiers in Sierra Leone and to stamp out guinea worm disease in West and Central Africa in the first wave of schemes funded by a \$1 billion (\$825,000,000) gift from the American cable television magnate, Ted Turner. *Mark Tran writes from New York.*

The UN Foundation, set up to disburse the money, yesterday announced that the first \$22 million instalment would be used for 22 projects. Most of them fall into three broad categories — work on the health of children (\$6.5 million); climate change and environment; and women and population.

More than 90 proposals were submitted last year after Mr Turner — who set up CNN — announced his \$1 billion donation, spread over 10 years. The gift is in the form of shares in Time Warner, the media conglomerate that bought Turner Broadcasting System in 1996.

The biggest single award — \$3 million — is for birth control in Bolivia. All projects will be handled by UN agencies.

just destruction," said Muchtar Sherif, who spent several weeks in the bush after the rebels torched his home.

Many like him are slowly and warily coming back to what is left of the town, bringing with them new tragedy. For, after two months in the bush with only mangos and leaves to eat, they are returning with the dislodged bodies and makeshift arms and legs of the seriously malnourished.

One 10-year-old boy, who had seen his parents hacked to death by soldiers from the former junta, was too weak to walk but so small and light he was easily carried by an Ecomog soldier. Alongside them were the amputees, rape survivors and victims of countless atrocities, such as Alfred, aged eight, whose back is a mass of puss and sores. The rebels had thrown him on a fire.

All are effectively refugees with no shelter in their home town. But the security situation has prevented any aid agencies from reaching them. There are no tents. There is no food and no medical help. The doctor who came with Ecomog was reportedly killed in an ambush two weeks ago just outside the town.

While the refugees are safe here, in material terms they feel only marginally better off than when they were in the bush.

"When it rains, it rains on us. When we get sick, we die. It is as though nobody cares what happens. As if we do not deserve humanitarian aid because we are not human beings," says Mr Sherif.

While the town has been liberated and is being used as a fortress by Ecomog, the situation in nearby areas is still precarious.

On Tuesday night the rebels attacked the Ecomog base, waging a gun battle that lasted half an hour. Yesterday, as an Ecomog armed escort led the way to a mine leased by the Canadian-based firm DiamondWorks, there was an exchange of gunfire between rebels in the hills and soldiers nearby.

A major stake in DiamondWorks is held by British businessman Tony Buckingham. He shares office premises



Mineworkers under guard wash gravel containing diamonds, the focus of Sierra Leone's power struggles

PHOTOGRAPH — MIKE FORSTER

with Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, the founder and head of Sandline, in London's King's Road.

The compound around the mine now looks like a derelict building site.

For several months after the junta took over, work at the mine continued. But when it became clear that the days of rebel rule would soon be over and that the 4 million carats of top quality dia-

monds which are estimated to lie at the bottom of the mine would not be devastated in time to fill junta coffers, rebels wrecked much of the equipment.

Back at the helicopter, Fred

and Juba are enjoying their status as local heroes. The two British businessmen are anxious to leave but some of the wounded who need urgent treatment are being loaded on to the plane so they can be

seen in Freetown. As soon as they are safely seated on the floor of the helicopter, Bokkie takes off, setting out on a different route to foil the rebels. Flying low, fast and in three dimensions.

## Image make-over for WTO

Larry Elliott in Geneva

**T**HE World Trade Organisation yesterday pledged to rid itself of its secretive and unfriendly public image, as trade ministers from around the globe took the first tentative steps towards a fresh round of trade liberalisation starting in 18 months' time.

Stung by criticism that it has taken a cavalier approach to the environment and pays scant attention to social problems, the WTO's director-general, Renato Ruggiero, promised a full make-over of the Geneva-based institution.

He said there would be strong emphasis on the environment, social policy, health and development.

Since the weekend, ministers have been holding meetings amid tight security due to daily, violent demonstrations against the WTO on the streets of Geneva.

The declaration issued at the end of the ministers' three-day session stressed the need for greater trade liberalisation and reflected calls from Bill Clinton and Tony Blair for the WTO to present a more human face.

"We remain deeply concerned over the marginalisation of least developed countries and certain small economies, and recognise the urgent need to address this issue which has been compounded by the chronic foreign debt problem facing many of them," it said.

It added: "We recognise the importance of enhancing public understanding of the benefits of the multilateral trading system ... We will consider how to improve the transparency of WTO operations."

Charles Harshbarger, the United States trade representative, said: "The greatest threat to the global system comes not from the difficulty of negotiation but from a failure

of public trust in the system."

But pressure groups are sceptical of the promised revamp. Environmentalists said they wanted to see action rather than words, while development groups pointed out that only one rich country — Britain — had backed zero tariffs for imports from developing countries.

Trade officials will spend the next year preparing for a ministerial conference — tentatively scheduled for a city in the American Mid-West in the final three months of 1999 — to set the ground rules for the liberalisation drive.

The US expressed delight at a declaration from trade ministers opposing tariffs on commerce conducted in cyberspace. But Brussels and Washington differ on how negotiations should proceed, with the European Union favouring a full-scale round of talks, while the US prefers a sector-by-sector approach.

Under the terms of the Uruguay round of talks, the last trade liberalisation negotiation that ended in 1993, the WTO next year will be discussing fresh cuts in subsidies to the protected European farming sector. Sir Leon Brittan, the EU's external affairs commissioner, is keen to widen the scope of the talks to embrace competition, tariffs, investment and government procurement so there are trade-offs for negotiators.

But President Clinton said this week: "We should explore whether there is a way to tear down barriers without waiting for every issue in every sector to be resolved before any issue in any sector is resolved. We should do this in a way that is fair and balanced."

Sir Leon said: "President Clinton is now halfway to endorsing a round. This is very encouraging. Clearly things are moving in the right direction."

### News in brief

#### Central American wildfire toll tops 50

**C**ENTRAL America is being ravaged by the most devastating wildfires in 70 years as walls of flame engulf millions of acres of wood and grassland from Nicaragua north through El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala to Mexico.

The fires have been burning for months but have intensified recently because of drought caused by El Niño. At

least 50 people have died in Mexico, most of them while fighting the blazes.

Ancient Mayan ruins in Guatemala are threatened and rare plants and animals have been destroyed in some of Mexico's most fragile ecosystems.

Smoke from the fires has been blamed for an air crash in Guatemala which killed three men and airports have

been closed. It has also pushed smoke as far as Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

Mexican authorities are blaming everyone for the fires, from peasant farmers to drug traffickers to motorists throwing cigarette butts. "It's a national disaster," said one of the country's leading environmentalists. — *Washington Post, Mexico City.*

#### Threat of June strike in Korea

**S**OUTH Korea's second-largest labour umbrella group decided yesterday to call a general strike in June to push its demands for the scrapping of laws making layoffs easier, a union spokesman said.

Before then, core member unions of the 550,000-strong Korean Confederation of Trade Unions — which has a reputation for militancy — will down tools indefinitely from May 27, said the spokesman, Chung Sung-hee.

A day or two before that, the union group would make one more appeal to President Kim Dae-jung to accept its demands, Mr Chung said. "If our demands are not accepted after the May 27 strike, we will call an all-out strike in all industries on June 10." The union paralysed many of the country's industrial sectors for nearly two months early last year in wild-cat strikes called to protest against new labour laws. — *Reuters, Seoul*

#### Three held for 'revenge killing'

**K**ENYAN police said yesterday they had arrested the man who ordered the killing on Saturday of the Rwandan opposition leader Seth Sendashonga and the two men who shot him.

A spokesman said a Rwandan Tutsi businessman living in Nairobi had confessed to ordering Sendashonga's murder for personal revenge.

Neither the businessman nor the two other men — described as a Rwandan Hutu and an Ugandan — were identified. Police said the businessman had told them Sen-

dashonga, Rwanda's interior minister from July 1994 to August 1995, and the businessman's father had stolen \$24 million in Rwanda. The businessman claimed Sendashonga had the father, a one-time director of immigration in Rwanda, killed after refusing to share the money.

Sendashonga was a member of the Rwandan Patriotic Front that ousted a Hutu extremist government in Rwanda in 1994 which had orchestrated the genocide of more than half a million people, mostly minority Tutsis.



Bishop Desmond Tutu is granted freedom of the city of Cape Town yesterday

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## Matthew Norman

**NONAGENARIANS** make a slow start in claiming the bottle of champagne (a magnum for centenarians) on offer to the first dozen who write enclosing proof of age. The off promotion — part of a focus group-inspired strategy to rebrand the *Diary* ("the juvenile column for the geriatric reader," as the new trapline will put it) — is open for another seven days. Come on, you old timers, buck up.



1. The first step in the process of creating a new product is to identify a market need. This involves conducting market research to understand the preferences and behaviors of potential customers. Once a need is identified, the next step is to develop a concept that addresses this need. This concept should be unique, valuable, and feasible. The third step is to create a prototype of the product. This allows the team to test the concept and make necessary adjustments. The fourth step is to conduct a pilot test, where the product is introduced to a small group of customers to gather feedback. Finally, the product is launched into the market, and the team monitors its performance and makes further improvements as needed.

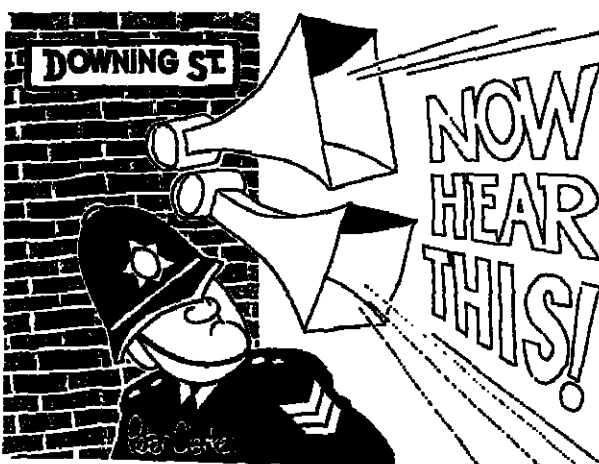
**S**O WHY were these researchers lucky enough to receive the special help of which Angela Eagle boasted? *It could have something to do with the fact that the four men have documented some of the most alarming regulatory failures in recent British history.*

Take Dr. Woolfson, for example. His work on the regulation of the offshore oil industry since the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster points to continuing weaknesses in inspection and enforcement. Offshore and on

restored. Well, we would be wrong. Not only have the cuts been maintained, but the manifesto promise of a new crime of corporate manslaughter has been deferred. For Angela Eagle, the protection of the HSE's director-general appears to be a rather more pressing matter than the protection of the workforce.

The best indication of the health of democracy is the way in which the press criticises. When good people, pursuing the legitimate interests of society, are treated like public enemies, you can be sure that something is going seriously

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Voyage o





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## Hague's euro dilemma

UK may be forced to join

POOR William Hague, damned when he doesn't proclaim distinctive policies and, this week, damned when he does. The routine accusation that the Conservative leader modifies his positions in response to Labour's myriad initiatives can scarcely be levelled at him over Europe. In Fontainebleau on Tuesday night he planted his standard firmly on the high ground of Euroscepticism.

It was a well-argued speech, more substantial than Tony Blair's address to the National Assembly in March (though Mr Blair dared to speak in French), which gave public voice to Mr Hague's deep-seated anti-federalism. Integrationist solutions for Europe's future are old men's answers, corporatist remedies of the 1950s to prevent the wars of the 1940s, the youth of 37 declared. In that respect he still spurs the Prime Minister: both have a tendency to lecture their more prosperous neighbours across the Channel.

But was the Hague speech wise, politically? In October 1990 Margaret Thatcher famously declared "No, no, no" when asked in the Commons about British membership of a single European currency. A month later she was forced from office.

Nothing so dramatic will happen to her successor-but one, who has evidently decided that seven years of fence-sitting over the euro by John Major did nothing to save his government from the worst election defeat since 1906.

Yet Mr Hague's speech had an immediate

and predictably divisive impact on his party. Eurosceptics, widely blamed by local activists for much of last May's humiliation, were thrilled. Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, still the biggest beasts in the Tory jungle, headed for the TV studios to accuse him of splitting the party, alienating business and of losing the vital centre ground on which elections are won.

It is a useful reminder that Mr Major's fence-sitting ("negotiate and decide" as he put it, "wait and see" to the rest of us) had its uses, which may be why Mr Blair and Gordon Brown have climbed on a remarkably similar looking fence. They hope to stay there until 2002 — if they can.

So far, so predictable. Yet Mr Hague remains on the horns of a dilemma he has fashioned for himself. In Fontainebleau he admitted that the single currency will happen on January 1 and is irreversible. He believes it will rapidly lead to supranational control over taxation and spending, en route to the political union which is the true driving force behind the rush to EMU. That in turn will eventually produce political crisis, neo-fascism Balkan-style or (this week's text) Indonesia's bloodbaths on the streets.

Yet if Mr Hague believes this scenario (he does), then why not set his face against the euro forever instead of for this and the next Parliament. Because, like Mr Blair and Mr Major, he knows that if the single currency proves a success, even in the short term, sterling will be forced by the markets to join it. Not for Mr Hague the Churchillian defiance of the 1940 variety. His fierce rhetoric is thus undercut by his caution.

That does not give his critics the right to dismiss his critique of Europe's ponderous economic and political characteristics, nor the deflationary impact the euro and its "one size fits all" interest-rate policy could

have on jobs in many parts of the union. "In the age of the global economy, only the open, nimble and lightly regulated will thrive," Mr Hague predicts. Only enough, Mr Blair says similar things, albeit in French, and also extols free trade. Europe's unemployed may wonder about that. So may eastern Europeans, desperate to get access for their goods before they obtain terms for entry into the rich man's club. Messrs Blair and Hague agree on that too. But are they simply paying lip-service?

## End of the affair

Nurses should keep media at bay

THE RELEASE of the two British nurses in Saudi Arabia raises difficult questions which will not be disposed of by a triumphalist return. On the whole, the judicial process of other countries should be respected: this is both right in principle and in order to ensure reciprocity. Are the circumstances of this case so exceptional as to warrant a different approach?

The strict terms of the two nurses' release do not hint at any criticism of Saudi justice. Both the Foreign Office and the government in Riyadh insist that it has been allowed to run its full course. The two women were found guilty, in one case of murder and the other of being an accessory to murder. They have served a length of time. Their sentences have now been commuted — not annulled — by King Fahd as he is entitled to. Yet this is largely sophistry. The king does not make a habit of intervening in such cases: their outcome is more likely to be execution than commutation.

The truth is that the affair was inconvenient to both sides. It aroused a great deal

of negative publicity for Riyadh and it made it awkward for Britain to continue selling huge quantities of arms to the Saudis. They now deny that British diplomacy played any part at all: that is to be expected. In reality the Prime Minister and Robin Cook appear to have finessed the issue quite skilfully, and those on both sides interested in promoting British-Saudi business have also helped. The "blood money" put up to compensate the victim's family — also in accordance with Saudi law — was mostly raised by British firms with major trading interests.

As to the facts of the case, we simply do not know what they are. The two nurses claim that their confessions, which they later retracted, were extorted from them. The process was obscure from beginning to end. It was even unclear when and how they were sentenced. The general principle of respect and reciprocity can hardly apply to a legal system which is flawed in its exercise and barbaric in its outcome. That being so, Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry are fully entitled to the presumption of innocence.

This does not mean that the two nurses should now become national heroines: reports of six-figure newspaper deals to "tell their story" are distasteful. This unhappy affair has been resolved, the two are reunited with their families, and that should be that.

## Verbal abuse

The press and paedophiles

WHO will speak up for paedophiles? To their credit, the chief probation officers stepped forward yesterday with an appeal to the Press Complaints Commission for

better guidelines for the provincial press on the coverage of paedophiles who have been released into the community. On many fronts — accuracy, fair presentation, respect for both sides of an argument — Britain's provincial press is way ahead of many national papers. Understandably so. Unlike the tabloids, they live among the people they report. Their credibility relies on honest reporting because their readers are often familiar with the details they report. Sensationalism can be quickly identified. Yet the coverage of released paedophiles by some provincial papers has been as sensational and damaging as the tabloids'.

A recent survey by the chief probation officers documented some of the damage: neighbours knocked up by reporters and informed a paedophile had moved into their road; mistaken identification of quite innocent residents. One innocent man was badly beaten up by a gang when wrongly identified by our own sister paper, the Manchester Evening News. A genuine offender was burnt out of his home by a mob and his child named and identified. The media should not be promoting lynch law. Indeed, by provoking sexual offenders to run for cover, some local papers have been making supervision impossible. That is the chief probation officers' main concern. It is making local communities more, not less, vulnerable. Supervision is working. It is far more effective than forcing paedophiles underground.

Some local papers are being more co-operative. The probation officers pay tribute to the Manchester Evening News under its new editor. But some still want to emulate the tabloids. The Press Complaints Commission is known to be concerned. It should look at the BBC's guidance to its local radio stations.

## Letters to the Editor

### Murder and modern art

WITH the announcement of a pardon for Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry (Nurses to be freed, May 20), it will be interesting to see which of the newspapers that complained so loudly about payment to Mary Bell, doesn't have its reporter at the airport waving a cheque book. *Vive Smith, London.*

MIRROR editor Piers Morgan justifies his decision to pay a fortune for the Saudi nurses' story despite their conviction because "most people" believe they are not guilty. He knows that the splash potential of the story relies almost entirely on the fact that most readers believe they are guilty. *Dr Nicholas Smith, Oxford.*

THE British Tourist Authority reveals an unsuspected streak of Francophilia in its latest campaign. "Is sport fous, ces Anglais?" is a quote from the Asterix books. The Gauls' justification for this sweeping statement was that the Angles drank warm beer and said "je demande votre pardon" a lot. *Diana Shepherd, West Drayton, Middx.*

IN North Dorset many hamlets in narrow valleys are called Bottom, as in Tarrant Bottom, Coombe Bottom, Well Bottom etc. All things considered, Marnhill (Letters, May 20) is lucky to have got away with Sodom "Lane". *Stephen Chambers, London.*

IT was interesting to see the abandoned club in Scarborough that the Leeds students thought convincing enough as a photographic backdrop to Paul McCartney's head in Spain (Life, art and the Costa del Ceylon, May 20). The "club" had in fact been recently designed, dressed and named Club Rendezvous for another work of fiction, the forthcoming film, Little Voice. *Mark Herman, Director, Little Voice, London.*

GIVEN that modern art is itself a very profitable confidence trick, the Leeds art students are clearly assured of glittering futures. *Dr D E Evans, Cheshire Hulme, Cheshire.*

## Windows closes options

IT is farcical to suggest that Microsoft's bundling of its Internet software with its Windows system will free consumers from the "format wars" that dog new technology (Tangles in the Net, G2, May 20). Microsoft's immense profitability is founded on exploiting ever-changing formats, generating new income from customers tied into its operating systems.

The explosive growth of the Internet happened because Internet software is totally "open" — software producers succeed on competition for quality, not compatibility. This openness is what Bill Gates wishes to destroy to regain market dominance. Already his company takes a small profit from 90 per cent of all the letters and documents produced using PC computers worldwide. If Microsoft succeeds, one organisation will have control over the means of communication in a way that has not been seen for over 500 years. It is distressing that the US is the only government trying to curtail its power. *Chris Lloyd, London.*

THERE are other issues that go beyond the computer industry. It is highly likely that browsing the Internet could, to some extent, replace broad-

casting. This highly interactive media, which allows for low-quality video and sound, is perfect for some applications — eg looking up, in your own time, news and sports results, watching edited highlights or listening to reports far more usable than 24-hour news services. Just like broadcasting, many of these services are paid for by advertising. Unlike broadcasting in the UK, though, there is virtually no regulation.

One feature of the new Windows 98 system goes even further than this. Microsoft, having full control of the sequence of events when you turn on the machine, will be able to display downloaded ads. It was apparently over this feature that the negotiations with the US authorities broke down last week, so computer users will not be allowed to turn it off. This really does give Microsoft a licence to print money, just like ITV of old. It is vital the Monopolies and Mergers Commission hold their own inquiry into this. *Dr John Forrest, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.*

MICROSOFT is seeking to do what any free market operator naturally would: utilise every possible mechanism

to protect a dominant position and work to contain or eliminate any potential threat.

I have seen Bill Gates quoted as saying in defence of Microsoft that "prices in information technology have fallen consistently and that new companies are emerging constantly with new products and innovations to compete with Microsoft".

But is this true when Microsoft dominates? I bought a new PC in September 1995, at which time Windows 95 was being sold by a major dealer for £25. Today I can buy a new PC, with a Windows 95 licence, for £28. And the prices I have seen suggest that Windows 98 (which is really only an incremental advance on Windows 95) will be no less expensive and perhaps more powerful, for a lower price. But the same dealer is selling Windows 95 for £28. And the prices I have seen suggest that Windows 98 (which is really only an incremental advance on Windows 95) will be no less expensive and perhaps more powerful, for a lower price.

This is not the only example, but I think makes the point. When Microsoft is competing it is the worst of enemies and unquestionably a friend to the wallet of the consumer. But there seems to be evidence that when it has won, then it behaves much more like the typical monopolist. With the 64 billion dollar question being, in the long term, is that in our good? *Mark Brockbank, Otley, W Yorks.*

## That ancient sport: women v men

HAVING played women's sport for most of my life, I realise the prejudice that it comes up against. This is mainly due to ignorance, but also through the lack of finance, support and publicity.

I thought the Guardian aimed to promote equality, so why was only one woman mentioned in the whole week-end sports supplement? How is women's sport supposed to become recognised and treated seriously with the financial backing that it deserves, if the media does not promote it? A recent example is the women's rugby world cup, where England have been successful, yet the media have hardly mentioned it. *Ruth Parkinson, Southampton.*

RE Libby Brooks's column about how to cope with being female during the

World Cup (Sidelines, May 19), there is only one answer — decamp to Italy. When I lived there, as an avid Inter Milan fan I was never once told "it's a bloke's thing" (as I have here) or overheard in a crowded bar watching a match "all the bloody women should just piss off home" (as I have here). Everyone in Italy loves football, regardless of gender. And if you don't like football? Go to the end of the bar furthest from the telly, get yourself a glass of wine. Could this be a win/win situation? *Lucia Ballie, London.*

THERE'S a third way, lofty and idealistic, to take the heat off. "Did you watch the match last night?" "Who was in it?" "England did well last night." "At what?" "Did you see the Cup

Final?" "Which cup was that?" *Mark Huff (a man), Caversham, Berks.*

ONE someone explain to me why Glenn Hoddle is threatening to drop Gazza from the England team? If it is really because he is abusing his body, why was it not a problem when he admitted abusing his wife? *Julie Bindel, Leeds.*

WE are used to footballers' OverMania. I take it, Arsenal's latest interplanetary venture, Will Keown and co be keeping it tight at the back around Uranus shortly? *Robin Soucher, Aberystwyth, Warks.*

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. The Country Diary is on page 10.



## Second homes tax rural areas

IT is not just in the Lakes District that second home ownership affects the life of rural communities (Villagers demand tax change to tackle 'blight' of second homes, May 19). In the Cotswolds, perhaps even more because we are close to London, second-home ownership increases house prices, depletes the rural population of residential owners and turns this other area of outstanding natural beauty into a chocolate box theme park for the rich. In this village of only 27 houses, 15 are owned by weekenders. This is not unusual.

The countryside is not for pinning out but to be stewarded by people who live and work in it. *Shelia Rosenthal, Northleach, Gloucestershire.*

AN additional benefit of a small council tax on second homes would be the separation of the countryside lobby into its component parts. The pro-bloodsports elements would no longer be able to claim legitimacy by including rural housing problems in their manifesto. *Liz Millward, Hathersage, Derbyshire.*

## Wind power piece was hot air

ALTHOUGH the byline on your article on wind power does not register my interest, Crispin Aubrey is editor of Wind Directions, the quarterly magazine of the European Wind Energy Association (Power struggle, Weekend Guardian, May 16). It is sad but not surprising that, having interviewed me for an hour, he made no attempt to explain Country Guardian's position but dismissed us with terms like "noisy". Our opposition to wind "farms" is based on the following concerns:

- The UK's 720 wind turbines produce about 0.2 per cent of our electricity. Thanks to privatisation and deregulation bringing prices down, electricity consumption has risen by nearly 2.5 per cent annually for the last five years. On this basis, we would have to build 7000+ turbines a year merely to stand still.
- Energy conservation measures could easily cut electricity consumption by a third with no economic or social costs — energy savings would finance the operation.
- Wind is unique among energy sources in being intermittent and unpredictable. Every

kilowatt of capacity has to be duplicated by a conventional power station to avoid power cuts. Wind can therefore never close a nuclear or fossil fuelled power station.

- The best wind speed sites overlap our best landscapes and if the wind industry gets its way these will be covered in wind turbines. Our opposition to wind farms would be to turbines placed very close to the shore and dominating the coastal landscape. *Robert Woodward, Vice chairman, Country Guardian, Twickenham.*

## Fur play

WE made a pledge before the election that we would ban fur farming (Stella McCartney joins animals fight with fur farms plea to PM, May 19). The Government remains fully committed to this policy. We are now considering how the ban can be implemented and an announcement will be made soon. *Jack Cunningham, Minister of Agriculture.*

## We were the media's mirror in ministers' beauty contest

YOUR poll suggests that unpopular ministers should be demoted and popular ones rewarded (Troubled Cook crashes in voters' popularity, May 20). I'd hope that promotion or demotion in a government reshuffle will depend on actual rather than perceived competence. It is very evident that those who fared worst in the poll were those who have had the most negative press. For example, Lord Irvine's performance rating is based, not on his work as Lord Chancellor, but on his choice of wallpaper. Similarly Peter Mandelson seems to be in a no-win situation as far as the media is concerned. *Gail Seery, South Witham, Lincs.*

WAS one of the people interviewed for your poll. The experience demonstrated to me how polls distort the opinions of the respondents. I vote Labour with extreme reluctance, and will do so only if

there is no credible socialist alternative. In your poll, this just becomes another Labour vote and appears as support for the Blair government, rather than opposition.

Again, I believe all workers should have the right to union recognition — but I was only offered the choice between the TUC and CBI positions, neither of which represents my standpoint. We are used to believing that people lie to opinion pollsters; but sometimes it is the poll, not the respondent, which tells the real lie. *Ed Horton, Oxford.*

SO Robin Cook's poor performance in the recent opinion poll is mostly due to "adverse publicity over his marriage break-up" and nothing to do with the abandonment of an ethical foreign policy by continuing to sell to Suharto and other tyrants the means to torture and kill. *Ben Walsh, Dublin.*





Bertram Schofield

# A catalogue of triumphs

**L**EARNING makes some men formidable and others approachable. Bertram Schofield, who has died aged 101, was in the second category. This affability did not, however, prevent him from being an excellent administrator and diplomat.

The period of his keepership of the British Museum's department of manuscripts, between 1956 and 1961, was a difficult one. During the war, the department had continued to add to its collections, but no cataloguing had been done, so that the *Catalogue of Additions*, one of the department's principal responsibilities, was badly in arrears. Schofield worked successfully with the director's office to allow an increase in establishment.

Schofield also recognised that the post-war extension of the keeper's duties made his sole editorship of the *Catalogue of Additions* impossible.

He devoted the work on his senior deputy T.C. Skeat. Thus the 1926-1930 volume appeared in 1959, and the massive 1931-1935 volume was underway when Skeat succeeded Schofield as keeper in 1961, although it was not published until 1987.

Bertram Schofield was born in Southport, one of the six children of George and Mary Schofield. His father was an amateur cycling champion. Bertram was educated at University School, Southport, and Liverpool University, where he read history. Later, he studied at the Sorbonne and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as an open research student.

His time at Paris made him a fluent French speaker, an accomplishment of which he was very proud, and familiarised him with the *École de Chartes*. There he developed a flair for deciphering and cataloguing medieval charters which less gifted colleagues were disposed to envy. He



His discovery of details of the composition of sand on a French beach in a journal of prehistoric archaeology played a key role in the D-Day landings

was subsequently a vice-president of the British Records Association.

During the first world war, he served in a cycle battalion of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry. He was to have taken part in the 1919 expedition to Archangel to aid the White Russians, but was providentially sent on a course and his regiment sailed without him.

Schofield joined the British Museum as an assistant keeper of manuscripts in 1922. In 1928 he married Edith Thomas, by whom he had a son and two daughters. During the second world war he was seconded to the Ministry of Economic Warfare from 1940-1942, and then to special duties with Inter-Service Intelligence and Combined Op-

erations, where he remained until 1944.

It was during this secondment that he made a discovery which had an important effect on the planning for the D-Day landings. A French academic journal of prehistoric archaeology revealed the composition of sand near the beach at Luc-sur-Mer, near Caen, in which armoured fighting vehicles would have become bogged down, and which therefore had to be covered by carpets of matting, laid by specialised tanks called "hobblers".

Returning to the museum after the war, Schofield was promoted to deputy keeper in 1947 and keeper of manuscripts and Egerton librarian in 1953. In 1959 he was appointed CBE. On his retirement in 1961 he moved to Kington, near Oxford. He was able to add to his publications, including the delightful letters of Sir Thomas Knollys to his wife in the first half of

the 17th century, edited for the Norfolk Records Society in 1949, were disappointed by his own illness and that of his wife, who died in 1981.

Among Schofield's pleasures were gardening and music, and he was a contributor to various music journals. Despite his friendliness and accessibility, there was a certain reserve about him.

His devotion to the British Museum was unreserved, and he deeply regretted the transfer of the department of manuscripts to the British Library, believing, as did many of his colleagues, that it had more affinity with the antiquities collections than with that of printed books.

He is survived by his son, two daughters, eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and by two sisters.

**Gerald Bonner**  
Bertram Schofield, keeper of manuscripts, born June 13, 1896; died May 15, 1998

Gordon Benningfield

## The artist as champion of the countryside

**G**ORDON Benningfield, who has died aged 81, was probably the most gifted countryside artist of his generation. An outstanding water-colour painter, he was also president of Butterfly Conservation, and vice-chairman of the Countryside Restoration Trust.

He hated bureaucracy and what he saw as environmental illiteracy; consequently an assortment of politicians, councillors, planners, farmers and Environment Agency engineers were his targets. He was alarmed at the industrialisation of agriculture and blamed the damage being done to farmland and wildlife on the Common Agricultural Policy.

Gordon Benningfield was the son of a lighterman, born near the Pool of London. The family moved to Hertfordshire in 1911, but Gordon maintained an emotional attachment to London and was honoured to receive the freedom of the City in 1983.

At London Coney he attended the village school and the local secondary modern. He loved his late-starting country childhood and was enthralled by the wildlife. Being dyslexic, at that time, he found academic work difficult, but his teachers recognised his artistic gifts.

He left school at 15. Offered an apprenticeship in ecclesiastical art with Faithcraft at St Albans, he worked on stained-glass windows, gold

leaf and glass engraving. On moving to the company's London studio he walked past a Jaguar car every morning and vowed to buy his own one day. In recent years he owned a cosseted Jaguar, as well as two pre-war MGs — and as an environmentalist he admitted the double standard.

At weekends he still roamed his beloved Hertfordshire countryside sketching and painting and he also attended the St Albans School of Art. After 13 years he had accumulated so many private commissions for his watercolours that he left work to concentrate on painting.

As his reputation grew he was commissioned to produce engraved glass windows for the Household Cavalry in the Guards Chapel. In the late 1970s and early 1980s he worked on the television series *In Deepest Britain*, *In the Country*, and in *Dorset Drama* he explored his fascination with Hardy Country.

He believed that the wildlife and landscapes of Hardy should co-exist with modern farming, and was depressed by the ravages caused by those farmers who turned their farms into factories.

In 1970 he published his first book, *Benningfield's Butterflies*; two years later came *Benningfield's Countryside*, which sold more than 150,000 copies and was translated into five languages. Not bad for a dyslexic country boy

who the army turned down for National Service. "I would have loved to have gone in the army car every morning and thought I was too thick."

In 1981 the Post Office commissioned him to design a set of butterfly stamps which was followed in 1985 by a set of insects. More books followed: *Hardy Country* (1988) and *Hardy Landscapes* (1990) showed both his knowledge of Hardy and his love of Dorset. *Benningfield's English Farm* (1986) and *Benningfield's English Villages* (1996) demonstrated his concern for the wider countryside.

He did not hunt but he regarded the attack on hunting as an attack on his culture and his friends. He stopped shooting, and his beloved River Gade dried up through over-abstraction so he could not fish. He was deeply upset that he was too ill to go on last March's Countryside March. He believed that the countryside was in crisis through CAP, the erosion of the Green Belt, and the closure of village schools and shops.

In 1994 This England Award gave him the Silver Cross of St George for his work for the countryside and in 1997 the British Naturalists Association presented him with the Peter Scott Memorial Award. He leaves behind his childhood sweetheart, Betty Boyce, who he married in 1968, two daughters and a border terrier called Ted.



Gordon Benningfield... published a series of books about the countryside he loved

**Robin Page**  
Gordon Benningfield, landscape artist, born October 31, 1916; died May 4, 1998

Cecil Grayson

**T**HE critical editions of Italian authors prepared for Italian publishers by Cecil Grayson, who has died aged 78, were influential in establishing the reputation of British scholarship in Italy in recent decades.

He was educated at Batley Grammar School and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, but after two years joined the army, and served in India. Back at Oxford, he profited from the teaching of Carlo Dionisotti, one of the greatest Italianists of our time, and, after graduation, collaborated with him on *Early Italian Texts* (1949). Dionisotti left Oxford in that year, and Grayson soon showed that he too was a master of textual criticism.

His field of research was Alberti and he set about putting

together reliable texts of that author's voluminous writings. A volume of *Opuscoli inediti* appeared in 1954. Then the discovery of unpublished chapters of literary theory by Vincenzo Calmetta interrupted this work. Grayson edited these, along with other works by Calmetta, in 1958. The three splendid volumes of Alberti's *Opera volgari* (1960, 1966, 1973), together with later studies established Grayson as the foremost Alberti scholar of his generation. He also published essays ranging from Dante to the 16th century and translated Roberto Ridolfi's biographies of Savonarola, Machiavelli and Guicciardini.

Appointed University Lecturer in Italian at Oxford in 1948, in 1958 Grayson became Serena Professor of Italian

Studies and Fellow of Magdalen College, a chair which he occupied until 1987. He was also a visiting professor in American and Australian universities and for more than 25 years was an editor of *Italian Studies*. As a fellow editor, I more than once saw him save some young author from embarrassment by correcting a quotation or a date.

In 1947 Cecil married Margaret, and they had four children. A host of scholars from all over the world will remember with pleasure a visit to their home sometime during the last 50 years.

**T Gwynfor Griffiths**  
Cecil Grayson, Italianist, born February 5, 1920; died April 28, 1998

A Country Diary

**ACHVANERAN:** As I walked through the paddock looking at the geese and ducks I noticed a great big fly out from one of this year's new nest-boxes. The temptation was too much and I lifted the lid to find no eggs but a completed nest, with a fine lining of brownish red hair. For a moment I could not think of the source, then I realised that the hair was from Trivia, smaller of the two African pygmy geese, who was moulting into her summer coat. As far as I can remember it is the first time I have seen goat hair as a nest lining. It reminded me that the St Kildans thought that ropes made of horse hair used for clambering down sea cliffs after eggs and birds were only matched by ropes made of goat hair. Meanwhile the house spar-

Dervish Duma

## At the court of King Zog

**"P**ERHAPS the brightest of the young Albanians here..."

ran a wartime Foreign Office memorandum, "a bit of a radical, but basically quite sound". The subject of this unsolicited testimonial was Dervish Duma, the head of the Albanian Legation in London in 1939, stranded in Britain when Mussolini's troops deposed the democratic government in Tirana on Good Friday of that year.

Duma, who has died aged 89, was one of a handful of liberally educated Albanians who might have been expected to play a prominent part in the governance of his country had democracy been restored. As it was Enver Hoxha's hard-line communist dictatorship condemned Albania to isolation, and denied Duma a role in the creation of a modern Albanian state.

It might not have been so. In 1949 the British and Americans sent a contingent of specially trained expatriate Albanians to organise opposition to the Hoxha regime (and thus destabilise the whole Soviet bloc). The plan, approved by Ernest Bevin and Dean Acheson, ended in disaster. Many of the Albanians were shot as they parachuted in, others were arrested and killed. The agent co-ordinating plans between the British and Americans had betrayed the details. His name was Kim Philby.

Dervish Duma was born in the village of Borsh to a Tusk land-owning family. Two tragedies marked his childhood: in 1913 Borsh was attacked and razed by Greek troops — five centuries of Turkish rule had ended a few months earlier; and by the age of 10 both his parents had died. In 1920 Dervish was selected to be one of the first year's intake in the new American Technical College in Tirana and then joined the Royal Albanian Gendarmerie as general secretary, where his abilities so impressed the British CO that arrangements were made for him to study public administration at the London School of Economics. On his return to Albania he entered the diplomatic service at the League of Nations in Geneva and then in London as second secretary to the Albanian Legation: early in 1939 he was promoted to chargé d'affaires.

When Italy invaded Albania and a fascist government was installed, Duma saw that he could be of more use to the Albanian people as a free agent in London and ignored orders to return to Tirana. In 1940 the Foreign Office sponsored an Albanian service of the BBC. Duma was its presenter. His nightly broad-



Duma... war broadcasts

and the former prime minister and translator of Shakespeare, Archbishop Fan Noli.

Duma also maintained a friendship with Edith Durham, until her death in 1944, a most vociferous champion of Albanian independence. With Aubrey Herbert she had founded the Anglo-Albanian Association in 1912. Duma was chairman at his death: he had served on its committee for 82 years.

The fall of the communist regime in 1991 brought Duma a new lease of life. The Speaker of the Albanian parliament Pjetër Arbori and Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate Kosovar leader, visited him in Surrey to seek his advice. The BBC's Albanian service was resumed in 1993 and Duma invited to give the first broadcast. He was proud to see his son Alexander appointed honorary consul on the resumption of diplomatic relations with Albania in 1992.

**Christopher Knight**  
Dervish Duma, diplomat and Albanian community leader, born July 4, 1908; died May 6, 1998

Letters

**Andrew Roth writes:** In connection with the death of Sir Patrick Wall (*obituary* May 20), it is ironic to note how 92 Cheyne Walk has changed colours as it has changed millions. It is now "pink," owned by Labour MP Barbara Follett and her millionaire novel-writing husband Ken. It was deepest blue under Sir Patrick, whose family wealth came from Egypt. The house previously gave its name to the "92 Group," since it was long the secret meeting place of hard-right Conservatives, who could only join if authorised by existing members. In my last telephone conversation with Sir Patrick — he was the uncle by marriage of my partner, Antoinette Putnam — he assured me the full decade before the press cottoned on to this Tory "party within a party." There is another link between Sir Patrick and Barbara Follett: South Africa. Barbara Follett was a fellow-traveller in apartheid in South Africa, where her first husband was banned and then killed by the police. Sir Patrick, a former Marine intelligence officer, was obsessed by the belief

that the Soviets were planning to capture South Africa, using the Cubans to set up satellite regimes in places like Mozambique and finally using the communist component of the ANC to seize power in South Africa.

**Alan Knowles writes:** Both Keith Bowers and Joan Bakewell caught the flavour of Helen Jenkins (*obituary* April 17). She did indeed rise to a position of senior producer on some of the BBC's best known current affairs programmes, but no mention was made of where she began her career after leaving university.

Journalists in the Manchester newsroom of the BBC will remember Helen as one of the best and most dogged researchers to work on the main newsdesk. She was, as Bowers mentioned, always on the side of the underdog. Those who worked with Helen will smile at his story of the hapless BBC functionary who had the temerity to ask if she had any controversial views. She would always ask the awkward question.

My enduring memory of her of her attendance at NUJ chapel meetings, where I was the Father. She would always ask the question you hoped would be missed. By Helen, it never was.

Death Notices

**DEAN, Professor G. W. of Durham University, on Friday, May 15th in Surrey Hospital following a stroke. Funeral: Friday, May 22nd, 2.30pm. St. Peter's Church, Surrey. Enquiries: 01222 431141.**

Memorial Services

**HARBOTTLE, George, MC, CBE, DSO, DFC, a memorial service in celebration of his life will be held at St. Nicholas Parish Church, Gillingham, Kent, on Friday, May 22nd, 3pm. All welcome.**

**RAY COLLIER**

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**SELLERS IMAGO,** the company contracted to provide the transcription service to both the North Wales Child Abuse Inquiry and the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, who were referred to but not named in a column on the Comment page, Page 16, May 19, have asked us to point out that precisely the same scale of charges for transcripts has applied in each case.

**THE RECIPE** for chocolate soufflé with Mars bar, Page 61, Guardian Weekend, May 16, specified "85 tsp granulated sugar". It should have called for 85g. Apologies to anyone already seriously oversweetened.

**DR BRONOWSKI** became Brunowski in Dish of the day, Page 30, G2, May 19.

**IN A television review,** Page 19, yesterday, we said, "It was Bishop Usher who dated the Creation to 404 BC. Alpha to omega, in less than 2,500 years." In fact it took a little longer. The year given for the Creation by Archbishop Usher, or Ussher, of Armagh, was 4004BC.

**ON PAGE 19, G2, May 19,** in an article headed, A world of privilege apart, Oxford's Hebdomadal Council became Oxford's Hebdomadal Council. Hebdomadal Council: the representative board of Oxford University, which meets weekly (*The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*). Hebdomadal, meeting weekly.

**TWO RECENT homophones:** 1 "The struggle for indepen-

dence by Cyprus was particularly bitter in the 1960s, with the leaders of the movement for union with Greece fermenting [romancing] violence and death." Analysis, Page 15, May 19. 2 "Likewise, the kitchen looks like a bomb-sight [bombstle], every surface covered etc" Guardian Weekend, Page 70, May 16. Bomber aircraft had bomb-sights.

**It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 115, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3JR. Fax: 0171 239 9597. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk**

صوتنا في الامم



# Analysis Gay rights

## Leaping out of the ghetto

MPs will vote next month to lower the homosexual age of consent to 16. Yet the movement for equality fights on. What's bugging them? More than enough, says **Amelia Gentleman**

**W**ITH the certainty of an historic victory when MPs vote next month to lower the age of consent for gay sex to 16, it might seem that activists have plenty to celebrate — an end to their long agenda perhaps in sight. After all, even the appalling shadow of Aids has receded with the apparent success of the combination drug therapy, and both the political and cultural climate seem recently to have shifted dramatically in activists' favour. The Government has both a lesbian and a gay minister on its front bench, while last summer the biggest yet Gay Pride march took place in London.

But far from relaxing, campaigners are still battling to counter a range of double standards, deeply rooted within the culture, the workplace, and the legal system. Activists assert that a victory on the age of consent will be just another step down the long road to equality — with many hurdles still to be swept aside. Gay rights movements are now working to extend their campaigns to other parts of the law, to schools and to the workplace, and cite numerous areas in which lesbians and gays still face institutionalised discrimination.

Aside from the disparity in the age of consent for gays and straights, there are a number of aspects of the criminal justice system which still discriminate against gay men. The campaigning group Stonewall points to the unequal penalties meted out to anyone convicted of underage sex. The maximum penalty for heterosexuals is two years, as opposed to five years for gay men. Home Office research suggests that more homosexuals are sent to prison for this category of offence than heterosexuals.

An amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill proposed by Ann Keen, Labour's MP for Brentford and Isleworth, will reduce the age of consent to 16 but makes no attempt to iron out these inequalities.

Stonewall points out that heterosexuals who have sex in public commit a minor offence described as "outraging public decency". But gay men who have sex in public

are charged with "gross indecency between males" — a gay only crime which carries up to two years in prison. Group sex in private is not an offence for heterosexuals, but it is for gays if there are more than two participants. Earlier this year seven men in Bolton were convicted of gross indecency for having group sex in private. They escaped a prison sentence after Amnesty International said it would adopt them as prisoners of conscience if they went to jail.

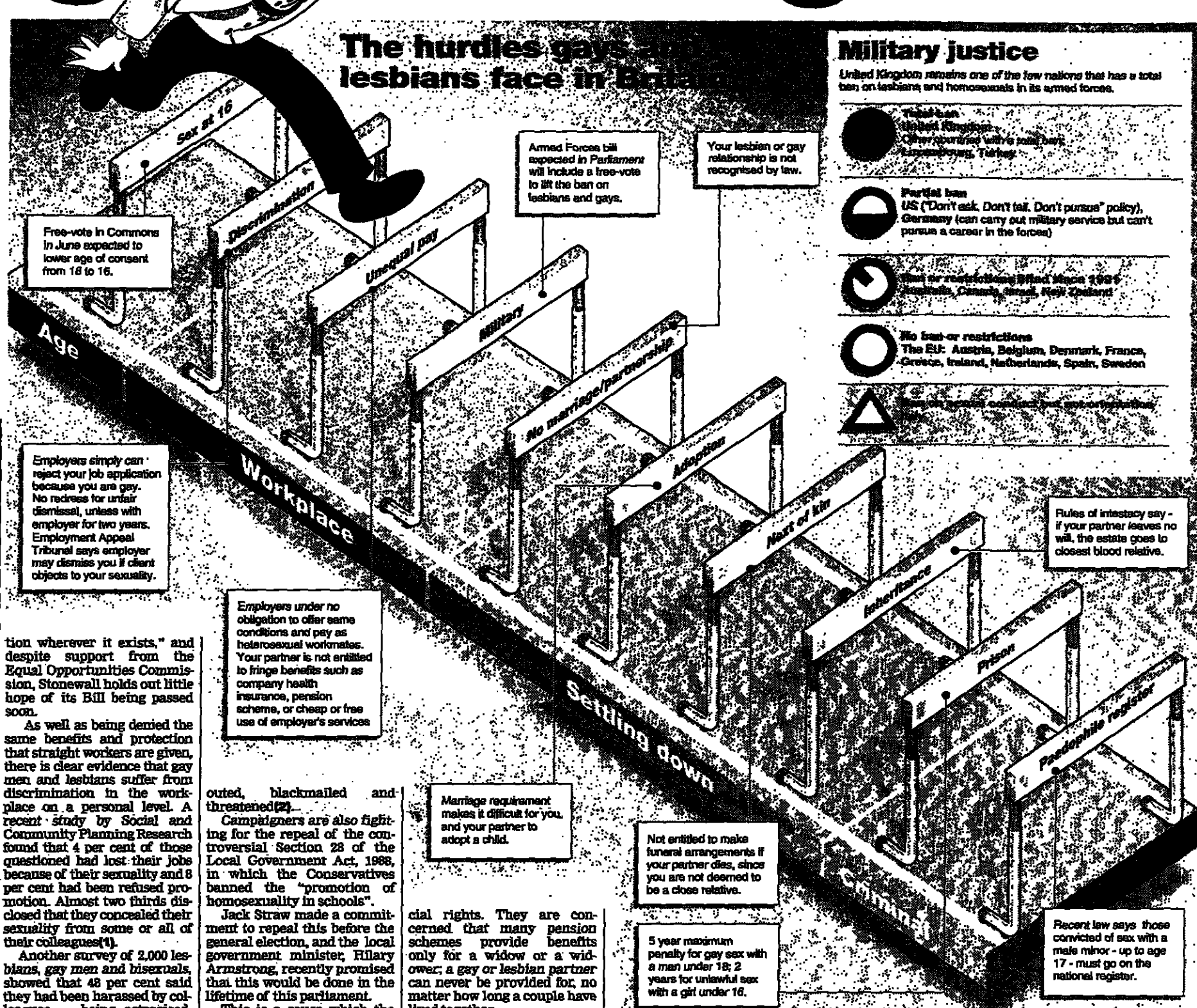
Discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of sexual orientation is another key area where action is needed. Lesbians and gay men have almost no protection — so that deciding not to appoint someone because of his or her sexuality is not unlawful. Nor is it against the law to treat gays less favourably than heterosexuals, pay them less, or sack them on the grounds of their sexuality.

Anya Palmer of Stonewall explains: "Employers need to be persuaded that they must treat lesbians and gay men exactly as they treat anyone else. It would be quite unacceptable if a future employer asked what race your partner was; they need to realise that it is equally irrelevant to ask what sex they are."

**L**ADY TURNER of Camden is sponsoring the organisation's Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill, a backbench move which would amend the Sexual Discrimination Act to include the same protection for gays. Activists had hoped to circumvent the need for legislation by setting a precedent under European law with the case of Lisa Grant — a railway clerk who took her battle to make her employers, South West Trains, pay for travel perks for her partner Jill Perry to the European Court of Justice. But the case was dismissed in February.

"There was an argument in legal circles that discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation could be seen as a form of sexual discrimination," Lisa Grant's case showed that we had lost that argument," Palmer says.

Although the Labour manifesto made a commitment to end "unjustifiable discrimination



### Military justice

United Kingdom remains one of the few nations that has a total ban on lesbians and homosexuals in its armed forces.

- Partial ban:** US ("Don't ask, Don't tell, Don't pursue" policy), Germany (can carry out military service but can't pursue a career in the forces)
- Partial ban:** France (can carry out military service but can't pursue a career in the forces)
- No ban or restrictions:** The EU: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden

### Section 28

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988, which prohibits local authorities from "promoting" homosexuality, is being challenged in court. The challenge is based on the fact that the section is discriminatory against homosexuals. The challenge is being brought by the National Society for Human Rights, a Christian organisation, against the Local Government Association, which represents local authorities. The challenge is being brought in the High Court.

outed, blackmailed and threatened. Campaigners are also fighting for the repeal of the controversial Section 28 of the Local Government Act, 1988, in which the Conservatives banned the "promotion of homosexuality in schools". Jack Straw made a commitment to repeal this before the general election, and the local government minister, Hilary Armstrong, recently promised that this would be done in the lifetime of this parliament. This is a cause which the more militant gay rights group OutRage! has adopted passionately. Yesterday its members were handing out "It's OK to be Gay" leaflets to school children as they walked into the London Oratory where Tony Blair's son is a pupil.

Peter Tatchell of OutRage! explains: "Section 28 must be replaced by legislation requiring all schools to provide honest, non-judgmental information about homosexuality. We decided to lead the school because of the massive censorship of gay issues within the curriculum — homosexuality isn't mentioned in most sex education classes."

Palmer adds: "We don't want actively to promote homosexuality; but we want there to be a level playing field. At the moment there is a lack of information, and by default, heterosexuality is promoted as the norm."

Stonewall is pushing also to improve gay partners' finan-

cial rights. They are concerned that many pension schemes provide benefits only for a widow or a widower; a gay or lesbian partner can never be provided for, no matter how long a couple have lived together. They are up in arms, too, because married and unmarried heterosexual couples have the right to succeed to a council tenancy while lesbian and gay couples have not. Stonewall hopes to secure equal rights for lesbian and gay parents — but concedes there is a long way to go before this becomes socially acceptable.

And there's anger at the continued ban on gays and lesbians in the armed forces. Reports earlier this week that the ban was likely to be lifted within two years and that the Armed Forces minister was to allow MPs a free vote on the subject have surprised Ministry of Defence officials, who say that there is automatically a vote on the issue during the lifetime of every parliament.

The hostility of the Church of England to so many of these issues is also something Stonewall wants to reverse but this, too, will be a long haul. Many of Stonewall's

aspirations are echoed by OutRage! but Tatchell's organisation has very different ideas about how to take gay activism forward in the wake of the expected victory on the age of consent.

**H**E explains: "The reality is that many people in the lesbian and gay community are concerned by the conformist politics of other gay rights movements. Equality is important but is not enough in itself. We hope to change the system, not conform."

Tatchell catapulted his organisation back into the public eye when he invaded the Archbishop of Canterbury's pulpit during his Easter sermon. He argues that dramatic tactics are vital if the sluggish pace of change is to be speeded up.

"We need to step up the pressure. Since 1967, when male homosexuality was partly decriminalised, there has been no major lesbian and gay law reform in Britain. All we've been given is a handful of half-baked reforms. Winning an equal age of consent will be an important advance but it will still leave many homophobic laws unchanged. We won't settle for anything less than total equality. Politicians must not be able to limit the debate to the age of consent."

After MPs vote next month to reduce the age to 16, OutRage! says the next hurdle will be to get it down to 14 for straight and gay teenagers. Tatchell concedes that there are difficulties ahead: "There are still large reservoirs of homophobia. Britain is more homophobic and has more anti-gay laws than any other country in Europe."

Giving weight to Tatchell's fears, Colin Hart, director of the Christian Institute, maintains that there is very little public support for most remaining items on the gay agenda. "While there is clearly a lot of support for the lowering of the age of consent, I think the majority of the public will be very much against the majority of the reforms. I don't think that people hate homosexual people; I just think they disagree with them, disapprove of them and are very worried by these proposals."

**Sources:** (1) Social and Community Planning Research study: Discrimination Against Gay Men And Lesbians; (2) Stonewall report: Less Equal than Others. **Graphic sources:** Stonewall, Graphics Finbar Sheehy, Paddy Allen. **Researcher:** Matt Keating. **Amelia Gentleman** is a Guardian reporter.

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# Finance Guardian

Sainsbury and Asda said to be in talks about joint supermarket swoop



On the shopping list... Sainsbury's store in the Brunswick Centre, Bloomsbury, London, may be wrapped into takeover package

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

## Safeway may be carved up

Roger Cowe and  
Steve Busfield

**A**SDA and Sainsbury are believed to be planning a joint takeover bid for Safeway. The deal would create a powerful third force in British supermarkets and provide Sainsbury with a strong presence in Scotland and the North-east, where it has fewer than a dozen stores.

A takeover bid would almost certainly prompt a Monopolies Commission inquiry, the threat of which led Asda and Safeway to abandon merger talks last summer. Asda and Sainsbury would hope to win the argument by carving up the 460-strong Safeway chain. The break-up would see Sainsbury taking a number of Safeway stores in Scotland and the North-east, where an Asda/Safeway combination would be most dominant.

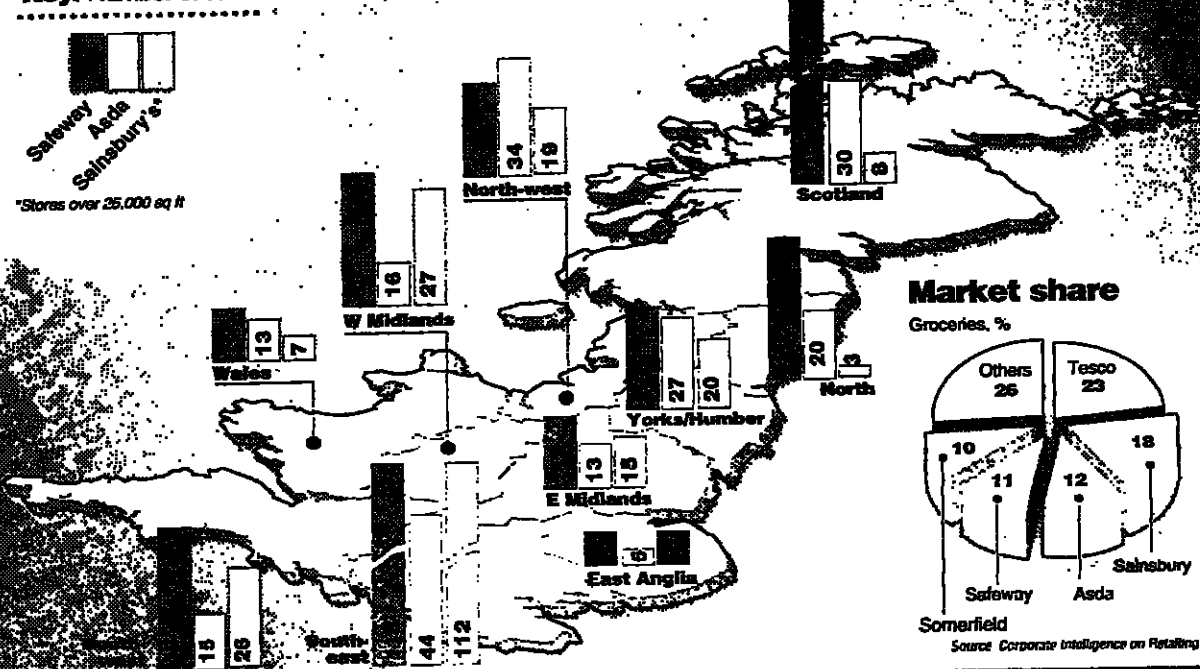
The two predators are known to have held talks last year, after the breakdown of Asda's talks with Safeway. The plan is thought to have been reactivated following the announcement that Sainsbury's chairman Lord Sainsbury is to step down at the annual meeting in September.

Following that announcement, Sainsbury is seen as having adopted a more aggressive strategy. Observers point to Tuesday's sale of a crucial stake in the US

### The battle for Safeway

Why a north/south split would suit Sainsbury and Asda

Key: Number of stores



retailer, Giant, as an about-turn from Lord Sainsbury's insistence on keeping the shareholding in the hope of being able to take full control. Bill Myers, an analyst at Williams de Broe, said: "Once David Sainsbury has gone,

you have a different set of circumstances. It can start being having like a normal company."

It is thought that previous talks between Asda and Sainsbury also broke down because of poor relations be-

tween Labour Party supporter Lord Sainsbury and his opposite number, Archie Norman, who is a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party.

Asda and Sainsbury refused to comment last

night. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury said: "This is rumour and speculation. We never comment on rumours." Asda recently broke off discussions about a possible merger with the retail conglomerate Kingfisher, but has

claimed that it is not actively seeking a corporate move. Mr Norman said recently that he was not prepared to pay the kind of premium which would be necessary to win a takeover battle for Safeway.

Chief executive Allan Leighton has said the company's existing superstore format can continue to grow satisfactorily for five years. Recent sales levels are believed to have fallen below the chain's strong growth record, however.

A Safeway spokesman said he was not aware of any discussions and denied a new round of talks had taken place with Asda this spring.

A combination of Asda and Safeway would control almost a quarter of the grocery market, putting it in second place, behind Tesco.

Sainsbury would be likely to defend such a threat to its No 2 ranking by mounting a counter-bid.

Such a deal would also avoid an Asda/Safeway combination having a dominant market share in Scotland and attracting a Monopolies Commission inquiry.

But industry observers believe this would not satisfy Labour ministers. One source said: "Geographical market shares are almost irrelevant. The politicians would not just accept any deal which meant the top four became the top three. There would also be an enormous reaction from suppliers and consumers, especially in Scotland."

### Notebook

## Banks treading dangerous path



Edited by  
Alex Brummer

**T**HE peak of the economic cycle is always the most dangerous time for banks. Having come through the good times with enhanced profits and capital, careless mistakes are made in lending and takeovers (see below).

The Bank of England recognises this in its annual Banking Act report which focuses on the domestic risks and, as might be expected at present, the hairier position in Asia. The Bank says that most of the bad debts tend to be put on at the back end of the economic cycle and notes solemnly that this requires vigilance.

It certainly does. Last time the biggest problems occurred in the property sector, so one supposes that mistake is not being repeated. However, there are looming problems. Consumer credit has been booming away for the banks, the fringe players and the credit card companies. Should the economy slow, there could be immediate difficulty in meeting repayments for the new kitchen or car deposit.

On a larger scale the biggest financial extravagance of this cycle is the management buyout, with banks and MBO specialists falling over themselves to outbid trade buyers. If the economy were to slow, some of the more leveraged situations, where it is more difficult to take the costs out, could quickly become the Magnet or Isosceles of this cycle, or more so.

Then there is Asia. The Bank clearly has worries, particularly about Indonesia and the effect of East Asia on banks from the region with UK licences. By all accounts the main UK clearers should escape relatively unscathed, particularly when compared with Deutsche Bank, which is ringing the alarms. But, as in the consumer credit area, some of the second-line UK banks, like the Royal Bank of Scotland, have been over-ambitious in the region and Indonesia may not yet be fully catered for.

No one is suggesting that the banking sector close to new business because the economy is slowing; that would only exacerbate the downturn. But to pretend the economic cycle has been abolished, simply because we have a Monetary Policy Committee and a golden rule governing fiscal policy, would be foolish in the extreme.

### Dutch auctions

**S**PECULATION about the banking sector continues apace. The latest possible deal to come into focus is the Dutch bank ABN Amro, which has not been acquired.

tion-shy, and the New York based investment house, Bear Stearns, which has extensive operations at Canary Wharf.

The attraction to ABN Amro of a house like Bear Stearns is that it has a reputation for razor-sharp trading skills and would provide some trading pizzazz to ABN Amro's present calmer operations in the Midwestern US and Chicago Corporation and Standard Federal Bancorporation. In commercial terms, Bear Stearns, which has a good reputation as a bond house, is admired for entrepreneurial spirit and is often likened to Goldman Sachs, except that, unlike Goldman, it is a quoted company with the employees holding a great deal of the stock.

As NatWest would testify, paint-by-numbers investment banks, in which disparate businesses are put together in an attempt to imitate some of the bigger players, are an incredibly difficult trick to pull off. The cultural differences between a trading house, such as Bear Stearns, valued at \$6.1 billion (£3.8 million), and a Dutch commercial bank, albeit with strong alliances, such as with Rothschild, are profound. But in the current climate, with Citicorp/Travelers working its way through Nations Bank/Bank of America forging its strategy, and Continental banks merging with each other as if there is no tomorrow, anything is possible, particularly deals which build a transatlantic arch.

As this juggling takes place, British banks cannot exclude themselves. The possibility of a clearing bank merger of Barclays/NatWest now seems unlikely. NatWest having failed to take the bait dangled in front of it. The best bet in the UK remain the underperforming former building societies — from the Halifax to Northern Rock. As their shares slip, the more attractive they become as targets.

### Hi-tech graduate

**A**NYONE watching television can no longer be ignorant of the impact of the IT companies on US stock markets. The constant triumphalism of Nasdaq, over its star hi-tech stocks Microsoft and Intel, worth \$300 billion between them, places the UK's new vibrant hi-tech sector somewhat in the shade. Nevertheless, there are useful second-line successes in the UK. The first British information technology firm into the FTSE 100 will be Misy's, which has just made the rankings.

The Misy's speciality is the supply of applications software to specialist sectors of the marketplace, from banking to health care after last year's acquisition of Medic (formerly a Nasdaq company) for \$38.6 million.

Much recent growth for Misy's has been by acquisition, which may reflect the Hanson culture of the group's executive chairman, Kevin Lomax. But, in targeting the financial and healthcare software sectors, Misy's could force its way further up the FTSE.

## Gold price plummets in wake of panic Far East selling

Dan Atkinson

**P**ANIC-stricken Far Eastern consumers facing economic meltdown and financial chaos have dumped well over 268 tonnes of gold coins, jewellery and other bullion on world markets during the past year, helping drive down the value of precious metals.

The gold bullion price closed last night at \$300.5 an ounce, one of its lowest levels, adjusted for inflation, in recent history. The Far Eastern jewellery glut threatens to drive it lower still.

The crisis helped slash demand for gold in developing countries by 70 per cent during the first quarter of this year compared with the same period in 1997. The most extreme example of "disinflation" was in South Korea, where the state-sponsored "save the nation" gold collec-

tions saw the public hand over about 226 tonnes.

This was "unprecedented", according to the World Gold Council, whose first-quarter figures, released yesterday, exposed for the first time the scale of panic in the Far East in the wake of the currency crises and economic dislocation that hit the Pacific tiger states in autumn last year.

In total, developing Asian countries saw a net selling back to the market of 268 tonnes — nearly 10 per cent of total annual world demand — and sales in Japan, which have pushed the total higher still.

Overall, Indonesian demand crashed by 122 per cent in the first quarter against the same period last year. South Korean demand by 72 per cent. In Japan, demand fell 40 per cent and in Singapore by 28 per cent.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.53	Germany 2.81	Malaysia 6.20	Singapore 2.81
Belgium 19.76	Greece 48.58	Netherlands 3.15	Spain 237.29
Canada 2.29	Hong Kong 12.24	New Zealand 2.86	Sweden 1.32
Cyprus 0.82	India 55.96	Norway 11.83	Switzerland 2.35
Denmark 10.76	Ireland 1.196	Portugal 207.11	Turkey 355.450
Finland 6.61	Israel 5.94	Saudi Arabia 4.99	USA 1.5995
France 9.40	Italy 2.790		

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shilling and malay)

## Bank defies trend and says no to \$21.8bn bid

Mark Tran in New York  
and Mark Milner

**M**ELLON Bank bucked the merger trend among American banks yesterday when it withdrew an unsolicited \$21.8 billion offer. Mellon simply refused to discuss the proposal, saying it preferred to stay independent.

Meanwhile, Dutch bank ABN Amro dismissed as "nonsense" a report that it was planning to buy the US securities house Bear Stearns. ABN already has a big presence in the US, particularly in the Midwest, and there has been constant speculation linking the bank with targets in North America and Europe.

Industry sources suggested such an acquisition could make sense by increasing ABN's securities distribution capacity in the crucial US market.

Bank of New York announced its offer for Mellon

Bank in April, arguing that the combined company would be a better match against the banking groups being assembled in the flurry of mergers in recent deals. Citicorp agreed to ally itself with the Travelers' financial services company with the goal of providing one-stop financial shopping for customers. NationsBank and BankAmerica are combining to form the first coast-to-coast bank.

Bank of New York claimed that key Mellon shareholders had expressed privately their overwhelming support for the proposed merger. But Mellon's management was unmoved and spurned the offer, not even bothering to meet Bank of New York officials for a detailed presentation of the bid.

"Mellon's refusal to meet with us and to have the opportunity for a constructive dialogue that would move this merger forward is inexplicable," complained Thomas Renyi, chairman and chief executive of Bank of New York. "Given that we will proceed

only on a consensual basis, we have decided to withdraw our proposal."

Wall Street doubts that Mellon can cling to its independence for long because there is pressure on it to boost value to shareholders. Two weeks ago, Mellon shares jumped amid rumours that Chase Manhattan was talking with Mellon about a merger.

Mellon has been seen widely as a takeover target since dropping a friendly \$18 billion (£11 billion) bid last October for CoreStates Financial. CoreStates rejected Mellon in favour of a deal with First Union Corporation. Mr Renyi expressed dismay at Mellon's "dismissive and superficial treatment of this transaction", and said Mellon shareholders had been hurt by the refusal to talk. The offer would give Mellon shareholders "value far in excess of what we believe Mellon is capable of providing alone", and Bank of New York was willing to "engage in productive discussions at any time".

## Lucky Jim puts booty into sports equipment firm

Former music chief uses part of golden goodbye for £8.5m hello, writes Ian King

**J**IM FIFIELD, the former head of EMI Music, yesterday spent a substantial chunk of the controversial £12.5 million golden handshake he received when he left the company in April.

Mr Fifield, nicknamed "Lucky Jim" in the City for his lucrative pay and bonus package while at EMI, has invested \$14 million (£8.5 million) in North Face, a Californian sports equipment manufacturer, where he has been named president and chief executive.

North Face, which is listed on America's Nasdaq exchange, was previously best known for the tents, sleeping bags and backpacks it makes for mountaineers and the ice picks and endurance equipment it makes for polar explorers.

More recently, though, it

has adopted cult status among the fashion-conscious American youth, with its chunky jackets now regularly sported by rappers and other top musicians.

Earlier this month, the company introduced its own line of footwear, concentrating on the hiking and trekking market. The appointment follows Mr Fifield's acrimonious departure from EMI, which is thought to have been triggered by the board's refusal to appoint him chief executive of the entire organisation. The group has since been involved in abortive takeover talks with Canada's Seagram.

In his previous decade in the job, Mr Fifield was credited with making EMI the world's third largest music company, propelling it into the charts as one of

the most profitable entertainment companies.

North Face is rather smaller than Mr Fifield's last enterprise, capitalised at just \$245 million (£150 million) and nothing up sales of just over \$200 million during 1997.

But the company is expanding fast, with some industry analysts already suggesting it could be a takeover target for a rival such as Nike, following last year's acquisition by Adidas of skating equipment maker Salomon.

A keen skier, Mr Fifield has been a director of North Face for the past two years and, according to anecdotes, became interested in the company after having been impressed by its products.

He said: "As an avid skier and outdoor enthusiast, I firmly believe in this company's products, its culture and its entrepreneurial spirit. North Face has very significant growth opportunities."

The Guardian  
Racing  
Victory for Irish

On the shopping list... Sainsbury's store in the Brunswick Centre, Bloomsbury, London, may be wrapped into takeover package

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

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The Guardian Thursday May 21 1998

Racing

# Victory doubtful for Irish Guineas

Chris Hawkes

**V**ICTORY NOTE, who produced an impressive turn of speed to win the French 2,000 Guineas earlier this month, looks set to miss out on the Irish equivalent at The Curragh on Saturday.

Peter Chapple-Hyam, the colt's trainer, explained yesterday: "We cannot run because the horse has been working very well and has come on since France."

However the Magniers, his principal owners, have other fancied entries in the race and they are keen to find another alternative. They have to see the best possible return on their huge investment in the sport and it is an understandable decision.

The Barry Hills-trained La Faah, fourth to Victory Note at Longchamp, was pulled out

of the Irish Guineas yesterday, leaving Desert Prince and Fa-Eq to represent Britain.

Oliver Peckler, who will be reunited with Desert Prince at the Curragh, has been approached to ride High-Rise for Luca Cumani in the Vodafone Derby. After yesterday's first stage 27 remain in the Epsom Classic, including four Aidan O'Brien-trained colts.

Second Empire, King Of Kings, Sarcophagus Springs and Chateau Royal.

At Goodwood yesterday Napoleon's Sister was a 20-1 winner of the Tripleprint Lape Stakes, a result with little apparent bearing on the Vodafone Oaks.

Napoleon's Sister is more likely to go for the Irish equivalent according to David Elsworth, her trainer, who explained how she came to be named:

"The same owner, Sean Coughlan, offered me Ridge-

wood Pearl and I turned her down. Obviously as she went on to win the Irish Guineas, Coronation Stakes and Breeders Cup Mile that was one of the biggest mistakes of my life. Sean asked me why I'd turned her down and I said, 'Who's ever heard of Napoleon's sister?'

The filly, ridden by Kieren Fallon, showed a nice turn of foot to catch Putnam and Enchant, who looked as if she would cruise up at one time but appeared to run out of steam.

Napoleon's Sister was a 160,000 guineas purchase as a yearling and is the most costly horse Elsworth has ever had, but it looks like money well spent.

Richard Hills, suspended for irresponsible riding on Tuesday, seems to be suffering a crisis in confidence and judgment at the moment and the tide refused to turn for him yesterday when he finished second on Kariyah and Mawred.

Kariyah was probably beaten on merit by Beresford, although the winner led all the way and clearly got first run. But on Mawred, beaten a short-head by Henry Island in the Amro Rated Handicap, Hills gave the distinct impression he would have won if he had not been pocketed on the rails.

Mawred eventually got out, interacting with Beresford, ridden by Fallon, in the process but the stewards took no action.

Simon Sherwood is to take over the running of Uplands Stables in Upper Lambourn. He has been installed with immediate effect as the new trainer at the yard owned by Andrew Cohen, following the departure of Charlie Brooks.



Longshot... Napoleon's Sister responds to Kieren Fallon's urgings to spring a 20-1 surprise in the Lape Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

## McCloy walks out on BHB post

Ron Cox

**MATTHEW MCCLOY** yesterday resigned as industry committee chairman of the British Horseracing Board, claiming he had been the victim of carefully choreographed attacks on his integrity and character.

His decision comes in the aftermath of Peter Savill's appointment last week as BHB chairman. McCloy had hailed Savill's victory as "great day for racing" and insisted he was not opposed to Savill.

But MP Alan Meale, a

close ally of the new chairman, said McCloy had shown antagonism towards Savill and described his position as untenable.

Commenting on his decision to quit, McCloy said: "It follows that the recent sustained attacks on my integrity and character which I am advised have been carefully, and perhaps professionally, choreographed have succeeded."

"Some will attribute this decision to the recent appointment of Peter Savill, but if I was not prepared to work with Peter and support him I would have resigned on the spot."

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## Goodwood Jackpot card with form guide

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Straight six furlongs with a rising right-hand turn in races of more than 71. Gradients and sharp bends not ideal for long-striding horses. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

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## Exeter National Hunt programme

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World Cup referee predicts French farce

# Durkin's red-card warning

Martin Thorpe finds widespread confusion over Fifa's ruling on the tackle from behind

THE World Cup finals are in danger of being turned into a farce by Fifa's new rules on the tackle from behind.

England's coach Glenn Hoddie believes that matches could be reduced to eight a side because of the new directives imposed by world football's governing body. And England's referees at the tournament, Paul Durkin, admitted: "It might well be that the team with the best discipline

players, there are growing concerns over the way the law has been implemented.

There is widespread confusion over what exactly constitutes "a player's safety" but just as worrying is the fact that the first outing for the new rules — which come into operation worldwide on July 1 — will be in football's biggest tournament starting on June 10.

Most players will have had about seven weeks from the end of their domestic seasons to the beginning of the World Cup to get used to the changes. But many will find such a quick adjustment impossible and the result could be a record number of red cards.

"I'm concerned about the changes," admitted Hoddie. "The way some players defend and tackle, it's human nature and it's difficult to change the habit of a lifetime."

Yesterday Fifa said the timing of the rule changes followed convention. "Any such rule modifications are always decided on in March and introduced on July 1," said its spokesman Keith Cooper.

Fifa's directive states that: "A tackle from behind which endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as a foul play, punishable by a red card." Such tackles had previously warranted a yellow card.

Durkin explained: "You can tackle from behind as long as you don't touch the man. Defenders will have to be 100 per cent certain in their judgment that when they go for the ball they get the ball and the ball only."

But what constitutes "safety" under the new rules? "A lot of people probably still don't understand the interpretation correctly," admitted Durkin. "You will have 35 referees from all over the world and you cannot hide from the fact that there will be varying



Grounds for dismissal... if England's Paul Ince repeats this type of challenge in France it will be early-bath time

PHOTOGRAPH: SHAWN BUTTERILL

## Law and order

Red-letter moments in the referees' charter

1974 Red and yellow cards introduced to indicate sending-offs and bookings.

1990 Professional foul outlawed, making it a sending-off offence to kick a player deemed to have a clear goalscoring opportunity.

1991 Professional foul ruling extended to deliberate handball.

1992 In an attempt to cut down time-wasting, Fifa makes it illegal for goalkeepers to pick the ball up when kicked back to them by their own players.

any record is going to win the tournament." The idea that the world game's most prestigious event could be decided by such criteria would make a mockery of it.

While there is much support for Fifa's aims in trying to encourage skilful play by stamping out tackles which "endanger the safety of other

interpretations. Even the wording in the laws of the game is different in different languages."

For Hoddie there is another major concern. "Surely the best referees should progress through the tournament as do the best teams," he said.

But this is not the case. Fifa has guaranteed each referee one game in the opening round, with future participation in the tournament dependent on performance over that 90 minutes.

"It is a problem," said Hoddie. "Are they going to referee just to keep Fifa happy so they stay in the World Cup? It is a pressure they don't need to be under and I think some of them are just going to go bang, letter of the law. We

might end up with eight versus eight. It's ridiculous."

Even Durkin admitted: "The pressure on referees will be immense. Fifa have told us they want these guidelines strictly adhered to. It could well be that I go out there with a little bit of self-preservation in mind and possibly over-react, though I would like to think I won't."

While Durkin has done his best to guide the England players through the rule change during his week-long stint at the squad's training camp, even this has been hampered by the referees' guidance video which highlights the sort of tackles which will now deserve a red

card. But it has still not been approved by the Fifa referees committee and will not be available for the players to see this week. Though Fifa hopes to send the Football Association a copy before the World Cup starts.

Despite this Keith Cooper believes there is no need to worry about a glut of red cards. "Only time will tell if these fears are justified but I personally don't think they are," he said.

Durkin, though, is less convinced. "The likelihood is that there could be a spate of red cards in the World Cup," he said. And, indeed, when the new rules were recently tried out in the United States the number of red cards quadrupled.

## Iran fire their World Cup coach and seek a diamond polisher

IRAN, who sacked the coach Tomislav Ivic after a 7-1 thrashing by Roma Tuesday's friendly, were yesterday greeted by around 200 fans on their arrival in Milan for Saturday's warm-up with Internazionale.

The technical adviser Jalal Talebi has been put in charge for the Inter match although an official said the federation may hire somebody else "because Talebi is not a coach".

Ivic, a 64-year-old Croat who last week said that "Iran were like a diamond that just needed to be polished", was hired on a six-month contract in January in place of the Brazilian Valdeir Vieira, who steered them through the play-offs.

A header by Gabriel Batistuta gave Argentina an unconvincing 1-0 win against Chile, who missed an 89th-minute penalty. In Mendoza, Nigeria lost 4-0 to the Swiss champions Grasshopper in Zurich.

Austria's midfielder Gilbert Praslinag has torn a cruciate ligament and will be replaced in his country's World Cup squad by Martin Amerhauser.

## Premiership still booming at box office

THERE was further evidence of the English game's rude health yesterday in the Premier League crowd figures for last season.

For the first time since it was reduced to 20 clubs in 1996 more than 11 million watched the 760 Premiership matches. The average gate was 29,189, an increase of 2.65 per cent on the figure of 28,434 for the 1996-97 season.

Manchester United once again proved the biggest home draw and gained the unique distinction of enticing more than one million spectators through the Old Trafford turnstiles. However, Derby County took pride of place for the biggest rise, attendance going up by 82.7 per cent at their new ground.

Attendances — season 1997/8				
	Total 97/8	Ave 97/8	Ave 96/7	Diff (%)
Arsenal	722,959	38,050	37,821	0.61
Aston Villa	686,587	36,136	36,027	0.30
Barnsley	350,526	18,449	11,358	62.46
Blackburn	479,804	25,263	24,947	1.23
Bolton	462,693	24,352	15,825	53.86
Chelsea	625,125	32,901	27,001	21.85
Coventry	374,634	19,718	19,625	0.47
Crystal Palace	417,675	21,983	15,065	46.57
Derby	552,987	28,709	17,899	62.70
Everton	472,140	35,376	36,186	-2.24
Leeds	658,507	34,711	32,109	8.10
Liverpool	591,689	30,615	20,184	51.44
Manchester United	1,048,185	55,168	55,081	0.01
Newcastle	696,828	36,680	36,406	0.75
Sheff Wed	545,496	28,709	25,993	11.74
Southampton	472,140	15,169	15,099	0.40
Tottenham	553,721	29,143	31,067	-6.19
West Ham	474,369	24,967	23,242	7.42
Wimbledon	316,824	16,675	15,156	10.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,091,773</b>	<b>29,189</b>	<b>28,434</b>	<b>2.65</b>

## Manchester United give up their chase for Foe as Gregory warns that Yorke will not leave Villa

MANCHESTER United will set their sights on other targets after the chairman Martin Edwards admitted yesterday it was unlikely they would sign Marc-Vivien Foe.

United have yet to hear Foe's response to their final offer, believed to be £5 million, for the Cameroon international but Edwards is increasingly pessimistic. The French champions reportedly want £3 million for the defensive midfielder and Edwards is adamant that United will not be held to ransom.

United had discussed personal terms with Foe and the 22-year-old was keen to move to Old Trafford.

The Aston Villa manager John Gregory is determined to fight any attempt by United to sign the striker Dwight Yorke.

"As far as I am concerned, Dwight is not leaving," he said. "He has two years left

on his contract and is not going anywhere. United may try but I am not interested."

United, meanwhile, are determined to hold on to the striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, a possible target for Valencia or Atletico Madrid.

Solskjaer, who is training with Norway's World Cup squad in Oslo, signed a seven-year contract last year which ties him to United until 2004 and says he is happy to stay at Old Trafford. "We see his future here as well," said Edwards. "We have not had any contact from the two clubs mentioned."

Jim Whitley, the Manchester City midfielder, has turned his back on Wales and their offer of an international future to continue his career with Northern Ireland. He claimed it was "the toughest decision of my football life".

Northern Ireland's manager Lawrie McMenamy

made a string of phone calls to Whitley to persuade the 23-year-old to change his mind after Wales named the Zambian-born player in their squad for games in Malta and Tunisia.

Wales were alerted to the prospect of snatching Whitley when it was discovered that he went to school in North Wales, a Welsh speaking area, and is a big friend of Leicester's Robbie Savage.

Derby County are being linked with a move for Harisovic Daniel Carbonari, a 24-year-old full-back with the Argentinean First Division club Rosario Central, whose president, Victor Vesco, said last night that he was expecting the Rams to pay around £2.5 million.

Watford have appointed Howard Wells, 51, as chief executive. He is currently chief executive of the Sports Council.

## Results

### Football

**DONOGAL U-21 TOURNAMENT**

N Ireland (1) 1, Scotland (1) 1, Northern Ireland (1) 1, Northern Ireland (1) 1.

**WORLD CUP WARM-UP MATCHES**

Mexico 2-0 Argentina, Chile 2-0 Argentina, Argentina 2-0 Argentina.

**Rugby Union**

ALLEN DUNBAR PLAY-OFFS: Northern Ireland 19-10, Scotland 19-10.

**Golf**

**SENIOR CLUB PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** (County): Second-round leaders 198 J Rhodes (15) 67, 71.

**ATP WORLD TEAM CUP** (Quebec): First round Red group Australia 2-0.

**WTA STANBROOK TOURNAMENT** (Quebec): First round Red group Australia 2-0.

**ATP ST. PETERSBURG PRIZE** (Russia): First round Red group Australia 2-0.

**WTA ST. PETERSBURG PRIZE** (Russia): First round Red group Australia 2-0.

**ATP ST. PETERSBURG PRIZE** (Russia): First round Red group Australia 2-0.

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**WTA ST. PETERSBURG PRIZE** (Russia): First round Red group Australia 2-0.

### Baseball

**AMERICAN LEAGUE** Boston 5 Chicago 2, Toronto 2 Tampa Bay 1, NY Yankees 9 Baltimore 5 Kansas City 3 Cleveland 16.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE** NY Mets 7 Cincinnati 3 (1st game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (2nd game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (1st game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (2nd game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (2nd game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (3rd game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (3rd game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (4th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (4th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (5th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (5th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (6th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (6th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (7th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (7th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (8th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (8th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (9th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (9th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (10th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (10th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (11th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (11th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (12th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (12th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (13th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (13th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (14th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (14th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (15th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (15th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (16th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (16th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (17th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (17th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (18th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (18th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (19th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (19th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (20th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (20th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (21st game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (21st game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (22nd game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (22nd game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (23rd game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (23rd game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (24th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (24th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (25th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (25th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (26th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (26th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (27th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (27th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (28th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (28th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (29th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (29th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (30th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (30th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (31st game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (31st game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (32nd game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (32nd game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (33rd game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (33rd game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (34th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (34th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (35th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (35th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (36th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (36th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (37th game).

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (37th game), NY Mets 5 Cincinnati 3 (38th game).

### Cricket

**THIRD-DAY MATCHES** Pakistan v Durham 20-0 (1st day), 10-5 (2nd day), 10-1 (3rd day).

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**THIRD-DAY MATCHES** Pakistan v Durham 20-0 (1st day), 10-5 (2nd day), 10-1 (3rd day).

**THIRD-DAY MATCHES** Pakistan v Durham 20-0 (1st day), 10-5 (2nd day), 10-1 (3rd day).

**THIRD-DAY MATCHES** Pakistan v Durham 2







# SportsGuardian

Mijatovic strike condemns Italians to second year of heartbreak

European Cup final: Juventus 0 Real Madrid 1

## Real grab their chance of glory

David Lacey in Amsterdam

**A**N impudent goal from Pedja Mijatovic 23 minutes from the end of a final rich in promise but let down by poor finishing last night gave Real Madrid their first European Cup triumph for 33 years. The Montenegrin punished a moment of slackness in the Juventus defence after Real had steadily gained a grip of the match after a nervous start.

Never was there a better opportunity for a European final to remind the world at large that football could still set new levels of skill, entertainment and style. The World Cup was a mere three weeks away. Now was surely the time to give it its cue.

Juventus, in their third successive European Cup

### Total triumphs

**Real Madrid: winners**  
1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1966, 1998 (seven times).  
**Juventus: winners**  
1985, 1996 (twice).

final and seeking to regain the prize surprisingly snatched from their grasp by Borussia Dortmund last season, were the team in form. Champions of Italy once again, they were expected to beat opponents whose results since the New Year had been disappointing.

Yet if anything could stir Real Madrid last night it was surely their illustrious past. Few teams, even now, have approached the standards of attacking play set by the Real sides that monopolised the first five European Cup tournaments in the latter half of the Fifties, and while they had only won the trophy once more, in 1966, there was sufficient quality among last night's players to take on Juventus in a battle of wits.

Clearly Real needed to keep their wits about them. With Edgar Davids and Angelo Di Livio quick to find space to Zinedine Zidane's left and right there was immediate support for the Juventus strikers, Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi, although the first shot of the night was a 25-yard drive from Didier Deschamps which sent Bodo Illgner scurrying along his goal line to make the save.

Then Clarence Seedorf, Real's Dutch answer to



Double Dutch... Real Madrid's Holland international Clarence Seedorf, left, gets the upper hand as he battles with his compatriot Edgar Davids

PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE BRUNSILL

Davids, raised Spanish hopes as he began combining with Christian Panucci to turn the Juventus defence on the right. Yet with Zidane consistently drifting into dangerous areas Juventus seemed more likely to score in the opening period. Shortly before the quarter-hour Del Piero, receiving his own free-kick back from the defensive wall, immediately laid the ball off

to Zidane, who shot into the side netting. After 18 minutes a free-kick at the other end gave Juventus their first fright of the night. Fernando Redondo tapped the ball back to Fernando Hierro, whose rising shot was tipped over the bar by Peruzzi. From the corner Mijatovic headed a fraction wide of the near post. Clearly something was stir-

ring in Real Madrid's soul, and after 26 minutes they should have been ahead. Gathering a pass from Redondo, Mijatovic side-stepped a lunging challenge from Moreno Torricelli and crossed low to the near post where Raul put the ball wide. A disappointment for Real, then, although the ease with which they had swung past the Juventus cover was heavy

with portent. As half-time approached, moreover, there were growing signs that Seedorf, Redondo and Christian Karembeu were beginning to curb the influence of Zidane. The second half saw Alessio Tacchinardi replacing Di Livio on the Juventus right but for a time the growing pattern of the first was unaltered. In the 62nd minute Real could so easily have fallen be-

hind. Zidane's free-kick took a deflection and the ball fell to Inzaghi inside the six-yard area with only Illgner barring the way but he mis-hit his shot and the chance was gone. A costly miss, as events were soon to prove. In the 67th minute a shot from Roberto Carlos cannoned off a defender, the ball falling nicely for Mijatovic, who calmly dummied Peruzzi be-

fore hooking the ball into the net. Even as Real rejoiced Juventus should have drawn level. Inzaghi shooting wide from Del Piero's cross.

**Juventus 14-3-1-2:** Peruzzi; Torricelli, Montero, Juliano, Pesacchi; Di Livio (Tacchinardi, 46), Deschamps, Davids; Zlatanovic, Del Piero.

**Real Madrid 14-3-1-2:** Illgner; Panucci, Hierro, Sanchez, Roberto Carlos; Karembeu, Seedorf, Redondo; Raul (America, 30min), Mijatovic (Suker, 50), Morientes (Lame, 82).

Referee: H Krug (Germany).

## Amateur loses status for ace

David Davies

**D**EREK LAWRENSON yesterday hit a golf shot which will change his entire life and that of his family. He had in one at the Mill Ride course in Ayr and thereby earned £175,950 — or a Lamborghini Diablo.

The hole, the par-three 15th, is 190 yards long and had been insured against such a thing but Lawrenson's three-iron was always on target and, to the delight of 150 or so spectators, dropped in. The event, organised by the clubmakers TaylorMade, was an outing for the England football team before the rigours of the World Cup in France.

Lawrenson, who is the Sunday Telegraph's golf correspondent but also a Liverpool season-ticket holder, was playing with Paul Ince and Steve McManaman, and the former was almost as pleased as the perpetrator. "He kept coming up to me and saying 'I need a hug'," said Lawrenson later.

Two versions of the car on offer, one black and one white, were on display at the hole and the winner will go to the Lamborghini showrooms in Reading next week to inspect them. He may instead turn his win into cash but either way his acceptance of the prize will cause him to lose his amateur status.

The Royal and Ancient says that the acceptance of a prize for an event of less than two rounds shall be no more than £200, and it would seem that a Lamborghini is a clear breach of that. As Lawrenson is going to accept either car or money, he will become a non-amateur and will not be able to play in club competitions of any kind.

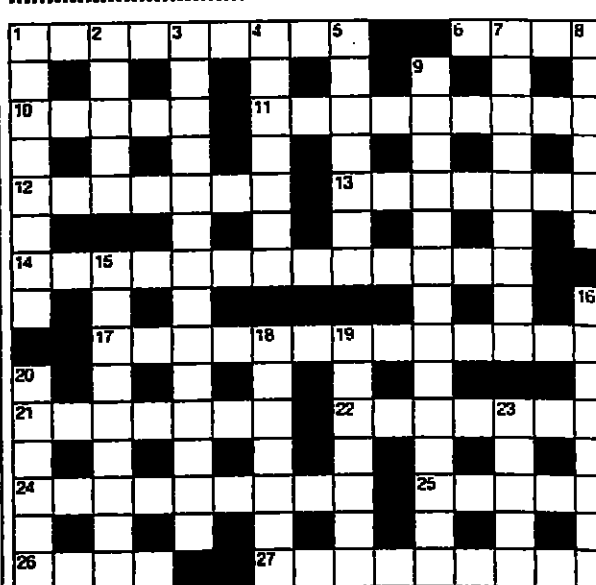
Lawrenson said yesterday: "I just have to accept. No one could afford to turn that kind of money down. If it had been a car worth, say, £15,000, then I might have thought about it, because at the age of 38 I've got a long time playing golf ahead of me."

"But we are talking family security for the rest of my life, and that must be worth more than any monthly medal."

Woolnam Ryder bid, page 15

### Guardian Crossword No 21,280

Set by Araucaria



- Across**
- 1 Repairing a gap, 252 clowns went on the stage (9)
  - 6 See 26
  - 10 Path or part (5)
  - 11 Caring is affected (9)
  - 12 Excursion to Scots river with little water by Spooner (3,4)
  - 13 Nothing by ear from the river (7)
  - 14 How French is French? Twice

- Down**
- 25 Girl graduate's biblical kingdom (5)
  - 26,6 Early ship divides doctor and Dutch uncle in development area (8)
  - 27 Home team in Cerne, possibly (9)
  - 1 Standing room at the back for a fool to beauty (4,4)
  - 2 Voluble little female angel? (5)
  - 3 Put press and broadcasting underground — Conservative, making the connection (14)
  - 4 Where's the pilot? Prepare to shoot mine (7)
  - 5,9 Mixed gins at pub after "Time, gentlemen, please?" — Fielding next? (7,8,6)
  - 7 Flower — a different one? A different one (9)
  - 8 Classical (I say to myself) doctor (8)
  - 9 See 5
  - 15 Plan the ground for Dorset village (9)
  - 16,20 Dart cares, dart cares — but 'N' (Scott) (5,3,6)
  - 18 Gorge on cheese (7)
  - 19 Some correspondents send a sss — the other way it causes grief (7)
  - 20 See 16
  - 23 Pick up note on tilt (5)

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**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**  
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of new material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.



Frank Keating

### No time for Blair to try to be king of the swingers

**I**T WAS an apt cartoon by Nick Garland in yesterday's Daily Telegraph, following President Clinton's tussle of the "brilliantly promising" golfing rabbit and protégé Tony Blair. The two were portrayed on the tee surveying the devilish hole ahead, with each bunker, water hazard, thick rough and impenetrable copse labelled: India, Ulster, Iran, China, Middle East, Indonesia and so on. Coach Bill was saying to little greenhorn Tony: "Above all, remember to keep your head down."

After their round near

Chequers Clinton was ecstatic. "Tony said he'd never hit a golf ball, so I told him how to stand, how to swing. It was embarrassing how good he was... either he is an unbelievable athlete or I have a career as a golf instructor."

You have to take the President's word for it as no photographers were allowed — although a couple of shots taken blurrily through a faraway hedge suggest that the PM in his tight-fitting pastel and new Caesarish haircut did have a touch of the Bernard Gallaghers about him, except for the nervous-goalie bent knees. The Pres, by the way, was in a diamond-patterned sweater which reeked of Jack Nicklaus, circa 1977.

Golf has seldom figured in the British politician's bag, whereas it has been the de rigueur semi-official sport of the White House, as much a President's duty as plugging down the first pitch on the baseball season's opening day.

At the turn of the century the White House's 27th incumbent (and 27-stoner) William Taft was regularly snapped swinging a club around his girth. At a rough count I reckon only Presidents Hoover, Truman and Jagan Jimmy Carter eschewed the great and confounded game.

John Major, late on the up-take as ever, last week an-

nounced he was taking up golf so that he could play with George Bush on his hole next month. I suppose Bush was the second biggest golf nut in the Oval Office after Dwight Eisenhower, whose swing was lauded by one brown-nosing aide as "gracefully grooved and rhythmic", although Bob Hope suggested he give up and try painting — "he'd need fewer strokes".

Richard Nixon played a smart game, too, but never lived down Sam Snead's accusation that he threw his ball out of a thicker without counting the stroke.

**L**ONDON JOHNSON hacked around when he had to but demanded so many "mulligans" (free shots when he had missed) that they became part of his game. Bob Hope helped ruin Spiro Agnew's Vice-Presidency in 1971. "A great hole, he hit a birdie, an eagle, a moose, an elk and a Mason, and he can't cheat on his score 'cos you've just gotta look back down the fairway and count the wounded."

Beyond every good shot there is a cock-up, so no wonder wiser British premiers have mostly steered clear. Blair should be warned. Before photo-opportunities (and scornful comedians) existed, the Tory PM Balfour played-

off six — at North Berwick each recess and the Liberal Asquith was also hot stuff on the links at Archerfield, next to Muirfield.

Harold Macmillan preferred shooting animals in Scotland. Lloyd George, typically, would dare a swipe off the first if a cameraman was around, so would Harold Wilson, who mostly played pitch-and-putt stuff to give his Labrador Paddy a run.

Like Major, Stanley Baldwin, Clem Attlee and Alec Douglas-Home were all besotted cricket nuts — much safer to stay in the pavilion. Heath was an ocean sailor on Morning Cloud; then it sank and so did he. Thatcher was so cluelessly unsporty that she wore an all-royal blue outfit when she went to Glasgow to present a cup to Celtic.

The nearest real golfer to No. 10 since Balfour in 1916 was Thatcher's deputy PM Willie Whitelaw, golfing Blue and captain of the R & A. He took a rest from the links one day, changed his plus-fours and went to bag a few grouse — and enraged spying Fleet Street and hence the nation when he persuaded his bodyguard to shoot a bird with his police pistol.

Blair, as Willie should have, should stick to what he knows. Golf would find him out in no time.

## SLIPPING MATCH

TYRES - ENGINEERED IN GERMANY

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

50 ان الامل

May 22 1998

Donald breaks his duck

These t Anne Si

Age

One day with... made... women... sister's

A

Expelled

Pupil's talk of everyone's had

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

INSIDE